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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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Editorial

We have lots of great articles again in this edition, with a couple I wish to comment on. Our series on the Port Arthur Massacre continues, giving yet more reasons why we should doubt the official story. For those overseas readers to whom the incident means little, let me condense it for you. A massacre occurred in 1996 in a distant part of the country, which led to the immediate introduction of laws designed to remove guns from Australian citizens. Ten years later, too few people dare to question the official version of what happened. I expected some flak from the publication of part one in our last edition, but all I have received is support via letters and emails, so we have gone ahead with part two and expect to run at least one more instalment.

We also have part two of Peter Dale Scott's lengthy exposé on international drug-trafficking, gun-running and staged violence which also points the figure at certain intelligence agencies. Many readers already recognise my repeated reminder: terrorist groups are all state sponsored; they are *not* spontaneous uprisings of annoyed residents. Every terrorist group is run by a state agency and is used to manipulate the masses of target countries, causing the introduction of draconian new laws and/or military control.

Our leading health article this issue tackles the issue of obesity. Americans are leading the fat race, but Australians, Russians, Germans, Czechs, Britons and Canadians are catching up. And it looks like there's no sign of the trend stopping. In fact, more and more people who are living in industrialised societies and eating "low-fat" or "no-fat" foods are just getting fatter and fatter. When will we realise that if we eat the proper fats we will lose weight and restore good health? I consider myself as "slim". When I travel to Europe, I am perceived as a "normal-weight" person; but when I travel to America, people think I am either an AIDS victim or on chemotherapy!

This issue we also raise the alarm on the hundreds of thousands of people around the globe who have died from, or are still suffering from, the largely unrecognised side effects of dyes used in spinal X-ray imaging. The chemical cocktail is corrosive and eats away the nerves and organs, causing excruciating pain for the victims. Unfortunately, few doctors even know about this problem and can easily misdiagnose it.

The subject of communicating with recently deceased loved ones is of immense interest to many people. Some time ago we heard about a new technique designed to overcome grief and allow people, without hypnosis, to see/feel/hear the deceased. Our article this edition has astounding implications for psychotherapy, healing and much more.

The response from our earlier article on the dark side of Tibetan Buddhism has prompted us to take some of the issues raised a bit further. All is not love and light with Tibetan Buddhism; it is a religion/belief system that has been used for political purposes and to manipulate the masses (not that it's alone in this; religion can be a tool anywhere).

The Twilight Zone section sees three curious items. First up, we have tales of winged humanoids. To the gentle sceptics among you, let me point out that the sheer number of sightings from multiple witnesses and from people who have never before even read/heard of such creatures is huge. The similarity of the creatures reported indicates a phenomenon that should be taken more seriously. Second, we have a report on how, in various parts of the world, fairies, elves and "little people" are taken so seriously by locals that entire road-building projects and housing developments have had to be changed to accommodate these supposedly non-existent beings. I have a pile of clippings about this trend from Sweden, Ireland, Scotland and Iceland. Over the years, people have learnt to co-exist with these beings, and now planning guidelines are accommodating them. The third item is about two brothers from Brittany who appear to have lived for centuries. The testimony given is detailed enough that it might elicit further info from our readers in France.

On a final note in this editorial, I would like to honour my mother, Treenie Roads, who died suddenly in June. To the many people who expressed their condolences by phone, card and email, I thank you. Things like this really test one's beliefs and emotions about death and loss. As my son Jasper said to me: "Duncan, you *know* she is not really dead; she is just somewhere else."

— Duncan

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Letters to the Editor ...

Request for Larger Type

Dear Duncan: I have been an avid subscriber to your publication for many years. It's the one single most important source of truth of what's really happening, or has happened, on our planet. Even if the details of some subjects may be questionable, the fact that the information is given to the world is tremendously important.

Anyone with just the slightest speck of intelligence to comprehend the contents needs to be advised of these subjects so that all can be aware of what's really happening on our island Earth.

Unfortunately, as we go through life, some of our senses increase in sensitivity (e.g., pain and heat receptors) while others decrease (e.g., hearing and sight). In spite of the best efforts of my medical supporters, my sight has decreased to such a point that it requires ridged squinting and/or special lighting and magnification for me to be able to read and interpret correctly the articles in your publication. Often, your next issue arrives before I can complete reading the current one. The reason is because the type font size you use is so extremely tiny—sub-micro-miniature—often making it extremely difficult to be sure of the identity of any character, even with a microscope!

I understand that you do not currently have a larger font size version of your publication available. It seems to me that you must have hundreds (or thousands) of subscribers who would highly prefer a larger type font size. Thus I want to request that you either print all your articles in a larger type or make available an issue that *is* printed in larger type.

I suggest *at least* a type font size of 10, but better would be 12. If feasible, the Comic Sans MS type style is perhaps the most legible font of all.

Perhaps many of your subscribers will respond to this request and also ask for or suggest this type size improvement.

Sincerely,
Clint S., Sparks, NV, USA

[Hi Clint: My problem is that I don't like chopping information to make articles fit. But if enough readers agree with you and let me know, then I'll increase the type size. Ed.]

Martin Bryant as Scapegoat

Hi Duncan, Catherine, Ruth, Richard and other esteemed members of the team. Congratulations on the new magazine *Strange Times* with my couple of articles. Looks very good.

I am glad to see the article on the Port Arthur massacre [13/04] because I have always regarded it as hard to believe that Martin Bryant was responsible. There seemed to be nothing in the history of his personality to turn him suddenly into a cold-blooded killer.

I read an article in a popular weekly magazine a couple of years ago, written by a fellow inmate of Bryant who was in prison for a very short period of time for not paying his traffic fines. He dined regularly with Martin Bryant—as they were both housed in the hospital portion of the prison used for non-violent prisoners—and had long conversations with him.

The author took it for granted that Martin was guilty of the massacre and therefore could not understand how it was that Martin had no recollection of any of it—or that he had no psychological effects from the situation.

Martin seemed to think that he would be freed any day soon, and was upset that his house and shares had been taken from him. He was unaware of the reason he was in prison and was only aware that his family friends' house had suddenly been burnt

down and that he had been arrested.

The author looked at it as an example of how insane Martin was in not having any real knowledge of the massacre or associated guilt—but to me it looked like Martin was a scapegoat with limited ability to understand what was happening to him. It did not seem like he could successfully undertake such an efficient massacre.

Cheers,
Gary Opit, NSW, Australia

Port Arthur Conspiracy

Dear Editor: I have understood for some years that investigation of the Port Arthur events was taboo, so it is refreshing to see an article such as this appear [NEXUS 13/04].

My first thoughts on hearing of the events and a description of what occurred were "Rubbish, no person is capable of shooting like that, particularly taking into account Bryant's proposed low IQ level".

I was around air rifles for most of my childhood and have used rifles, both military and sporting, for much of my adult life, in National Service and Reserves for nine years and as a sporting shooter for many years.

Descriptions of Bryant's "prowess" did not make sense. The events obviously came as a huge shock that something like this could occur in Australia.

Any description of the sequence of events has always been "hidden behind a cloud", with rifles/pistols of varying calibres and descriptions appearing and disappearing at random.

What is not in doubt is the unbelievable speed at which a new government in power was able to introduce and implement a set of drafted laws and restrictions whose whole intention was to remove firearms from the law-abiding community. Yes, I am one of that community and, no, I was

not into collecting automatic weapons.

Coincidences like that *do not* just occur.

All the best,
Adrian S., Australia

Lunar Material Experiments

Hello Duncan: I am quite bewildered by the lack of interest in the fact that NASA has sanitised the test results associated with the various plants and animals that were subjected to injection with lunar material at the Johnson Space Center during the *Apollo* missions.

I was extremely interested in the effects of lunar materials and had correspondence with NASA at the time. I was supplied with the results of the tests conducted and shown pictures of the affected plants. Despite there being no radioactivity associated with the lunar material beyond normal background levels, the lunar material caused accelerated growth, genetic deformities and cancerous growths.

No one knew what to make of it, but I wanted to know what caused these radical effects. This led to many years of study and thoughtful consideration which resulted in a solution. But upon attempting to present my findings, I discovered that the original test results had been deleted and rewritten to hide the problem.

I am told that no one is interested in my work because no such problem exists. Are you interested?

Sincerely,
David B.

[Hi David: Yes, we are interested. Tell us more! Ed.]

Nuclear Agenda in Australia

Dear Editor: Have you ever wondered why the Alice Springs to Darwin rail link was constructed after decades of neglect? Join the dots.

The consortium awarded the

... more Letters to the Editor

NB: Please keep letters to approx. 150 to 250 words in length. Ed.

contract to build the line was Asia Pacific Transport. One of the main players in the consortium was Kellogg, Brown and Root, a Halliburton subsidiary with an Australian base in Adelaide.

In November 2005, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld flew to Adelaide (yes, Adelaide) on Air Force Three to attend the inaugural meeting of the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate. In May 2006, PM John Howard went to Washington and came back spruiking "the nuclear debate".

According to the *Australian Financial Review* (6 June), Howard was told what Australia's future role will be in the nuclear industry. Instead of exporting yellowcake (powdered uranium), Australia is to process uranium into nuclear fuel rods at, or near, Olympic Dam, the BHP Billiton-owned uranium mine in South Australia. The nuclear fuel rods will then be exported via the Adelaide to Darwin rail link to places like India and China.

Howard was also told that the spent rods are to be re-imported for storage at the former nuclear test site at Maralinga. Under this plan, devised by Washington, Maralinga would become the world's main dumping site for used nuclear fuel rods.

Yours sincerely,
Ken C., Qld

The Art of UFO/ET Contacts

Dear NEXUS: Earlier this year I created a website that seeks to display the art and creative expressions of people who have had UFO, extraterrestrial or celestial contact experiences. This website is not political or commercial and serves only to present the expressive works of anyone affected.

After having been through and come to terms with some of my

own experiences, I felt compelled to create this website for it seemed that a dedicated display platform for various artistic and other expressions in this field did not really exist on the Internet.

I have had genuine UFO encounters and have found, as so many people have before me, that the complexities of a person's state of being and the nature of UFO contact phenomenon itself are incredibly difficult things to come to terms with, especially from the perspective of accepted mainstream life.

If anyone would like to have a look at the Art of Contact website, the URL is <http://www.theartofcontact.net/>.

Kind regards to all,
Steve McNelley, Australia

Speed of Time and Creation

Dear Duncan: Re the matter of time "speeding up" and the immediate future for the planet [NEXUS 13/04], the late Ian Lundgold, in his DVD lecture about the Mayan calendar (a "must see" for anyone who's the slightest bit interested in these times!), made the point that time itself is not speeding up but *creation* is speeding up and thus cramming more events into a shorter period of what we see as linear time. The result is the (erroneous) perception that time is accelerating. Linear time is a fallacy peculiar to our present mindset; and outside of our current dimension, time simply does not exist as we perceive it. Yes, a big ask to comprehend that one!

The research of Russian astrophysicists—studiously ignored in the West—bears this out. The solar system has entered a denser, more energetic region of space in our voyage around the galaxy. The simple fact that the "bow wave"—the shockwave of plasma at the leading edge of the heliosphere—has increased

from 4 AU to 40 AU in depth tells us that this is happening, without any further information—of which there is plenty for those who wish to hunt it out. The web page <http://www.tmgnow.com/repository/global/planetophysical.html> (with the article by Dr Alexey N. Dmitriev) is an excellent place to start.

There are layers upon layers of interpretations of this—physical, religious and spiritual battles between Light and Dark, and so on. In reality, it is not too inaccurate to simply say "rapid evolution on every plane", even though that may be an oversimplification!

We (and our planet with us) are indeed approaching the culmination of this evolutionary burst—the "great cleansing"—and the next few years will be "interesting" indeed. Probably not much fun for many of us, but interesting!

Bernie T., Tasmania.

A Heart for Alien Encounters

Hi Duncan: Whilst travelling across Australia in the early 1990s, I had a couple of alien encounters at Green Lake, Victoria, and Smokey Bay, South Australia. The aliens were green in colour with big, black, almond-shaped eyes and long arms, and they communicated telepathically.

I won't go into details about the events as it's a long story and I know you are a busy man. I am just writing to say *thank you* for making me feel normal, when all about me are those who would have sent me to an asylum.

For over 10 years I have been trying to make sense of my encounters, abductions, multi-dimensional experiences, miracles, sightings of spacecraft, etc.

This all began happening during a period in my life when I felt truly free and without fear, and had set forth on a sort of pilgrimage across Australia to

better understand my being and my faith. When I got to the other side, nobody could help me understand my experiences in the wilderness. Instead, I was bombarded with negativity by those who claimed to know better until I started believing them instead of myself!

Listening to the ignorance of others has been quite harmful to my emotional and mental states, so I thank you for having the courage to stay true to yourself and not be manipulated as I have been by those who would have one suppressed.

Through your magazine I have come to understand my own experiences. Though I don't talk about them to anyone anymore, I know within my heart that I was not crazy and that this means the world to me.

Through your enlightened articles I have also come to learn forgiveness towards our government, which knew about all this long before I was abducted.

Thanks again, Duncan. Now I can get on with my life. I am now fearlessly prepared to go back to the heart space I was in when all this began.

Yours sincerely,
Stephen V.

Stevia Information Online

Hi: I just read your article, "The Bittersweet Story of the Stevia Herb", and found it to be a great resource. I recently launched a non-profit website, <http://www.steviainfo.com>, to provide information for people considering this herb as an alternative to sugar and chemical sweeteners. For your readers who are interested in learning more, I've provided lots of background info, news articles, research studies and delicious recipes on the site.

Any support you can offer this non-commercial project would be tremendous! Thanks!

Ryan Peterson,
<http://www.SteviaInfo.com>

MIND-READING COMPUTERS

British and American scientists are developing an "emotionally aware" computer that they hope will be able to read an individual's thoughts by analysing a combination of facial movements that represent underlying feelings.

Professor Peter Robinson and his collaborators from the University of Cambridge, in England, believe the computer's applications could range from improving people's driving skills to helping companies tailor advertising to people's moods.

"The system we have developed allows a wide range of mental states to be identified just by pointing a video camera at someone," he said.

"Imagine a computer that could pick the right emotional moment to try to sell you something, a future where mobile phones, cars and websites could read our mind and react to our moods."

The scientists, who are developing the technology in collaboration with researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the USA, also hope to get it to accept other inputs such as posture and gesture.

"Our research could enable websites to tailor advertising or products to your mood," Professor Robinson said. "For example, a webcam linked with our software could process your image, encode



the correct emotional state and transmit information to a website."

It could also be useful in online teaching to show whether someone understands what is being explained and in improving road safety by determining if a driver is confused, bored or tired.

"We are working with a big car company and they envision this being employed in cars within five years," he said.

He says a camera could be built into the dashboard and anyone who does not want to give away too much information about what they are feeling can just cover up the camera.

(Source: Reuters, 26 June 2006)

BUSH'S BUSINESS IS CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET

Before and during US President George W. Bush's recent trip to Vienna, Austrian newspapers were abuzz with details of the heavy-handed, Gestapo-like security measures behind the visit.

But of all these measures, it was White House "toilet security" ("TOILSEC") that had Austrians talking the most.

The White House flew in a special portable toilet to Vienna for Bush's personal use during his visit. It seems that the White House is so concerned about the President's security that it has extended the veil of secrecy over his bodily excretions.

The special port-a-john was designed to capture Bush's "waste material" which was then to be flown back to the United States, thus thwarting any attempt by some enterprising foreign intelligence agency to conduct an operation designed to trap and examine Bush's waste material. One can only wonder why the White House takes such extraordinary security measures.

In the past, similar operations were conducted against foreign leaders to determine their medical conditions, but these intelligence operations were directed against dictators in countries where even the medical conditions of the top political leaders were considered "state secrets".

The Israeli Mossad conducted one such operation against Syrian President Hafez Assad when he visited Amman, Jordan, in 1999 for the funeral of King Hussein. The Mossad had installed a special toilet in Assad's hotel room that led not to a pipe but to a specimen canister. Assad suffered from diabetes and cancer, and the operation was designed to discover the actual medical condition of the ailing leader.

During Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Washington in 1987, the CIA reportedly placed a special trap under a sewage tank to collect the Soviet leader's bodily waste for analysis.

More recently, the CIA was reported to have collected waste samples from Ugandan president-dictator Yoweri Museveni's toilet when he visited Washington.

(Source: Wayne Madsen Report, 4 July 2006, <http://www.waynemadsenreport.com>)



BIOLOGICAL CLOCK LINK WITH CANCER

Dartmouth Medical School geneticists have discovered that DNA damage resets the cellular circadian clock, suggesting links among circadian timing, the cycle of cell division and the propensity for cancer.

Their work implies that the biological clock has a protective dimension, in addition to having pacemaker functions that play such a sweeping role in the rhythms and activities of life.

One gene (period-4) was identified over 25 years ago by a mutation that affects two clock properties, shortening the circadian period and altering temperature compensation.

For this study, the researchers cloned the gene, based on its position in the genome, and found it was an important cell cycle regulator. When they eliminated the gene from the genome, the clock was normal—indicating that the mutation interfered in some way with the clock, rather than supplying something that the clock normally needed to run.

Biochemically, the mutation results in a premature modification of the well-understood clock protein frequency (FRQ). The investigators demonstrated that this was a direct result of action by an enzyme, in mammals called checkpoint kinase-2 (CHK2), whose normal role is exclusively in regulating the cell division cycle. CHK2 physically interacts with FRQ; the mutation makes this interaction much stronger. However, a mutant enzyme that has lost its activity has no effect on the clock.

(Source: Dartmouth Medical School, 30 June 2006, <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/06/060630100044.htm>)

COMMON VACCINE ADJUVANT KILLS BRAIN CELLS

If two dozen once-jittery mice at the University of British Columbia (UBC) are telling the truth post mortem, the world's governments may soon be facing one hell of a lawsuit. New, so-far-unpublished, research led by Vancouver neuroscientist Chris Shaw shows a link between the aluminium hydroxide used in vaccines and symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease) and Alzheimer's disease.

Shaw is most surprised that the research for his paper hadn't been done before. For

80 years, doctors have injected patients with aluminium hydroxide—an adjuvant that stimulates immune response.

"This is suspicious. Either this [link] is known by industry and it was never made public, or industry was never made to do these studies by Health Canada. I'm not sure which is scarier."

According to Shaw's paper, similar adjuvants are used in hepatitis A and B vaccines and in the Pentacel cocktail, which vaccinates against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio and a type of meningitis.

To test the link theory, Shaw and his four-scientist team from UBC and Louisiana State University injected mice with the anthrax vaccine developed for the first Gulf War. As Shaw explained, because Gulf War syndrome looks a lot like ALS, the neuroscientists had a chance to isolate a possible cause. All deployed troops were vaccinated with an aluminium hydroxide compound. Vaccinated troops who were not deployed to the Gulf developed similar symptoms at a similar rate, according to Shaw.

After 20 weeks of studying the mice, the team found statistically significant increases in anxiety (38%), memory deficits (41 times the errors as in the sample group), and an allergic skin reaction (20%). Tissue samples after the mice were "sacrificed" showed that neurological cells were dying. Inside the mice's brains, in a part that controls movement, 35% of the cells were destroying themselves.

"No one in my lab wants to get

vaccinated," Shaw said. "This totally crept us out. We weren't out there to poke holes in vaccines. But all of a sudden, oh my God—we've got neuron death!"

It's possible, he said, that there are 10,000 studies that show aluminium hydroxide is safe for injections. But he hasn't been able to find any that look beyond the first few weeks of injection. If anyone has a study that shows something different, he said, then "put it on the table". "That's how you do science."

(Source: The Georgia Straight, 23 March 2006, <http://www.straight.com/content.cfm?id=16717>)

CIA AND MI6 GAVE TRAINING CAMP TO OSAMA BIN LADEN

The *Wayne Madsen Report* has obtained a confidential "France Only" report of the French intelligence service, Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure (DGSE), that states that the CIA and Britain's MI6 maintained effective control of an important al-Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan as late as 1995—two years after the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, an attack that was launched with the help of Sudanese intelligence officers loyal to Osama bin Laden.

The CIA and MI6 permitted control of training operations at Darunta—an "Arab Afghan" base located near the camp of Osama bin Laden and used to manufacture explosives and chemical weapons and train in their use—to pass to the control of Ibn Cheikh, a Libyan leader of al-Qaeda.

Two significant items emerge from the



"I'm an astronomy tutor. I was giving a class on the Big Bang, when some guys in black uniforms smashed down the door and the next thing I remember is waking up here."

DGSE report. One is the fact that the CIA and MI6 were dealing with a Libyan al-Qaeda member at the same time that Libyan leader Muammar al Qaddafi had declared war on al-Qaeda. Unlike the United States, Libya issued an Interpol arrest warrant for bin Laden on 16 March 1998. With this treasure trove of proof of US (and British) support for al-Qaeda, Qaddafi had the US and the neo-cons over a barrel. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Bush administration now considers Qaddafi (once branded as terrorist number one) to be a good friend.

The other item is the training of Ahmed Ressam at Darunta. Bill Clinton's National Security Adviser Sandy Berger was charged with removing classified documents from the National Archives concerning the Ressam bombing plot. The question remains: what were in these documents and did they have anything to do with the CIA's fingerprints on the Darunta camp?

(Source: Wayne Madsen Report, 23 May 2006, <http://www.waynemadsenreport.com>)

DID LONDON BOMBERS WORK FOR BRITISH INTELLIGENCE?

Anoted terrorism expert has suggested to the BBC that Mohammed Siddique Khan, the alleged ringleader of the 7 July 2005 (7/7) London bombings, was working for the British intelligence agency MI5 as an informant at the time of the attacks.

Charles Shoebridge was a detective with the London Metropolitan Police for 12 years, is a former graduate of the Royal

Military Academy at Sandhurst, and is now a broadcaster and writer on terrorism in the UK.

"The amount of information coming out and the quality of information coming out: the fact that *that* has been so consistently overlooked, it would appear, by the security service MI5 to me suggests really only one of two options. Either we've got a level of incompetence that would be unusual even for the security services, or Khan was working as an informant for the security service," he said.

This meshes with the inconceivable coincidence of exercises which drilled the same targets being attacked at the same time, being conducted by Visor Consultants, and eyewitness reports suggesting that the accused displayed no behaviour conducive with suicide bombers.

The alleged bombers bought return train tickets, left pay-and-display valid tickets on their cars in Luton and had their movements captured on CCTV, but they gave no indications that they were nervous about their imminent deaths. Even Metropolitan Police investigators now believe that the bombers were dupes set up by somebody else and didn't know they were carrying live explosives.

The 7/7 links with British intelligence agencies don't end with Khan. Terror expert John Loftus told the Fox News *Dayside* show that alleged London bombing mastermind Haroon Rashid Aswat was an MI6 intelligence asset whom British security helped protect and hide before the bombings.

Recent media reports concerning Khan's movements have brought to light evidence that Khan's Honda Accord was bugged by MI5 prior to the bombings. Though denied by the Metropolitan Police, this would again sync with the supposition that Khan was doing the bidding of British intelligence when four bombs ripped apart three trains and a bus on 7 July, killing 52 and injuring more than 770 people.

(Source: *Prison Planet.com*, 27 June 2006, <http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/june2006/270606londonbomber.htm>)

NANOTECH SENSORS CAN SNIFF OUT MONEY

United States border security officials have sponsored the development of a sensor at the University of Michigan that detects the gases given off by the ink on paper bills, making it easier to catch currency smugglers.

With the advent of nanotechnology, sensors are becoming so small that they allow the monitoring of many conditions in ways never before possible. Dr Kensall Wise, director of the Center for Wireless Integrated MicroSystems at the University of Michigan, calls wireless integrated microsystems (WMS) "the final frontier in the pervasiveness of microelectronics".

He's working on a micropowered environmental monitor for the precision analysis of gaseous materials. This wristwatch-sized device can detect the presence of toxic gases at the level of just 100 parts per trillion. It can also monitor temperature, humidity, pressure and more. For example, it can recognise the presence of mustard gas in a building's air supply in just four seconds.

(Source: *Nanotech Buzz*, 5 July 2006, <http://www.nanotechbuzz.com>)

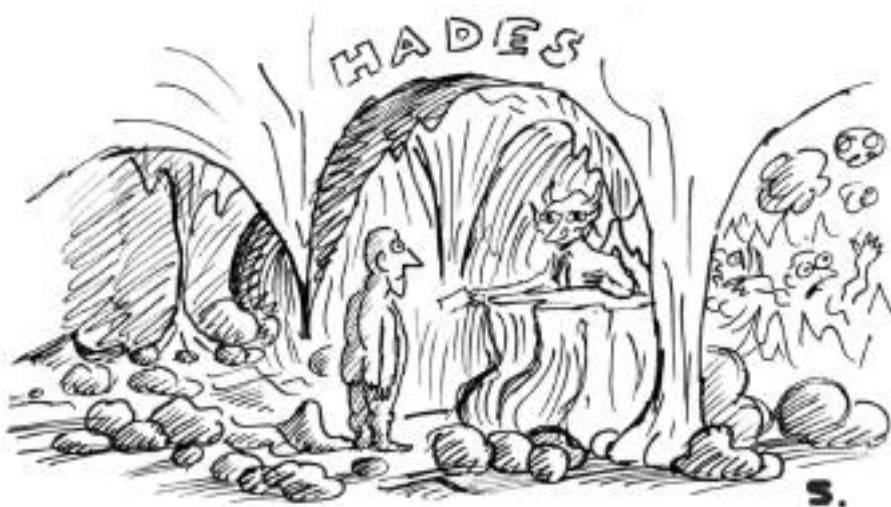
ULTRASOUND FREQUENCIES FOUND TO "REGROW" TEETH

An ultrasound transmitter that fits neatly inside a person's mouth like a brace could help to regrow damaged teeth.

Jie Chen and Ying Tsui, engineers at the University of Alberta in Canada, developed the miniature device after ultrasound stimulation encouraged damaged teeth and jawbone tissue to regrow in animals.

Tarek El-Bialy, who works in Alberta's medical faculty, was able to regrow teeth in rabbits with a larger device, but only when some tooth root remained in place.

The ultrasound device could help those who have had their teeth broken while



*"It's OK if you're not sure about the place.
Why don't you check out our website first?"*

playing high-impact sports such as ice hockey and rugby. The tooth brace sends low-power ultrasound pulses to the damaged tooth over many months. A piezoelectric crystal generates the ultrasound by vibrating at frequencies above 20 kilohertz when fed an alternating voltage from an oscillator charged by a battery.

Physiotherapists often use ultrasound to help broken bones knit back together, although the healing mechanism is not precisely understood. One theory is that pressure waves mimic the effect of strenuous exercise, loading a bone and tricking it into generating more bone cells—a process called osteogenesis.

El-Bialy's work on rabbits in 2003 first showed that low-power ultrasound also encourages growth of dental tissue. (Source: *New Scientist*, 6 July 2006)

SHEEP DIE FROM GRAZING ON GE COTTON LAND

Recent studies on GE cotton farming have raised grave concerns about the safety of GE cotton which is widely used in food as well as in clothing.

In New Zealand, a preliminary report released in late April found that thousands of sheep died after grazing on land where GE cotton had been grown. The sheep and goats started dying after seven days of continuously grazing on tender leaves and pods of Bt cotton that remained in the fields after picking.

In December 2005, a three-month study was released which found that workers picking GE cotton suffered severe skin reactions, with itching and blistering eruptions leaving a black skin discolouration which was still apparent after five months.

The British Medical Association has already signalled that GE products could present certain risks, including the creation of drug resistance in venereal disease as a result of women being exposed to GE constructs in personal hygiene products.

Further, GE cotton crops have failed in regions of India, with many suicides resulting because of the debt accrued from the high cost of growing the cotton. This has prompted the Indian Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) to concede after three years of commercial cultivation that Mahyco-Monsanto's Mech-184 Bt, Mech-162 Bt and Mech-12 Bt are a failure.

(Source: *GE Free NZ*, 9 May 2006)

THE MYSTERIOUS MORGELLONS DISEASE

It's like a mystery disease straight out of the *X-Files*, but those who suffer from it will tell you it's painfully real. Imagine sweating beads of a black, tar-like substance, pulling coloured threadlike strings from sores all over your body or feeling like your skin is crawling with bugs.

Miles Lawrence, a landscaper in Florence, Texas, was supposed to be packing for a road trip to Las Vegas when he noticed his finger tingling. He stared in disbelief, he says, as "little spiny things" sprouted out of the skin where he'd just removed a splinter. He grasped one of the spines with tweezers and pulled.

Instantly, he says, a bolt of pain shot up his arm. He tugged on another one and the pain snaked up his neck. Then the really creepy part began. "It felt like bugs under the skin of my arms, in my joints," Lawrence says. "I freaked out."

Across the country, thousands of people complaining of the same horrifying phenomenon have formed an illness subculture. They share lists of symptoms, medical speculation and tales of run-ins with mainstream doctors at <http://www.morgellons.org>, the official website of the Morgellons Research Foundation. It was founded in 2002 by Mary Leitao in McMurray, Pennsylvania. Leitao named the condition Morgellons disease—after a disease with similar symptoms mentioned in a 16th-century medical text—while investigating a skin affliction on her then-two-year-old son.

Morgellons has barely registered on the radar of mainstream medicine. Few doctors have heard of the condition, and fewer still know what to make of it. So when people walk into an examination room and announce their symptoms, they are often met with scepticism or claims they are suffering from delusional parasitosis—literally, delusions of parasites in the skin.

"Believe me, if I just randomly saw one of these patients in my office, I would think they were crazy, too," nurse practitioner Ginger Savely said. She treats Morgellons patients from all over the country at her San Francisco Medical Center. "But after you've heard the story of over a hundred patients and they're all down to the most minute detail saying the exact same thing, [it] becomes quite impressive."

In Austin, Texas, nurse practitioner Ginger Savely says she's seeing more and more patients in her clinic with the symptoms, like painful skin ulcers that spring blue fibres, white threads and little black specks of sand-like material. "Talking about it just sounds crazy, but there are just a lot of things that come out of their skin."

Savely, who specialises in Lyme disease, believes she may have found a clue. "About 10 per cent of my patients with chronic Lyme disease have symptoms of this Morgellons," says Savely. She says people with the tick-borne disease have weaker immune systems and may be more vulnerable to the infection.

The real cause of Morgellons disease, however, remains a medical mystery. Most individuals with this disease report disturbing crawling, stinging and biting sensations as well as non-healing skin lesions which are associated with highly unusual structures. These structures can be described as fibre-like or filamentous, and are the most striking feature of this disease. In addition, patients report the presence of seed-like granules and black speck-like material associated with their skin.

The peripheral nervous system is often affected by this disease, but the most significant element of the infection appears to be the effect on the central nervous system. Nearly all people with this illness report extreme difficulty with mental concentration and short-term memory.

Mood disorders, such as depression and bipolar disorder, are extremely common in this group of patients, affecting well over half of all individuals reporting symptoms of Morgellons disease. Parents of children with Morgellons disease report that the majority of these children have ADHD, ODD, mood disorders or autism. It is estimated that 65% of these children have some form of psychiatric illness and 10% have an autism spectrum disorder.

Associated diagnoses which have been commonly reported in this patient population include borreliosis (better known as Lyme disease), fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome.

(Sources: *Morgellons Research Foundation*, PO Box 16576, Surfside Beach, SC 29587, USA, <http://www.morgellons.org>; *Popular Mechanics*, June 2005)

THE PORT ARTHUR MASSACRE WAS MARTIN BRYANT FRAMED?

Australians were told that Martin Bryant had been responsible for the massacre at Port Arthur two days after it happened. Bryant himself didn't find out for another nine weeks.

Part 2 of 3

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The police interrogation

On 4 July 1996, two police detectives who had been appointed by Superintendent Jack Johnston to handle the Port Arthur investigation, Inspectors Ross Paine and John Warren, interviewed Martin Bryant about the case at some length.¹ Despite the extreme seriousness of the crimes for which he was being held responsible, Bryant was interrogated without legal counsel present. This outrageous circumstance is exposed in the interview record which begins with Bryant being informed that his lawyer (David Gunson) had "no problem" with the interview taking place without his participation.

Inspector Paine: Look Martin, you've obviously got a, a, an interest in firearms as well?

Martin Bryant: Well, I have had an interest in firearms.

Paine: How many guns do you own?

Bryant: I own, umm, a shotgun and a semi-automatic and another semi-automatic. Three altogether.

Paine: Where'd you get those guns?

Bryant: Oh, umm, I can't really say, I haven't got my lawyer here, so.

Paine: Well, we have spoken to your lawyer and he knows that we're talking to you.

Bryant: He knows, he knows.

Paine: And aah, has no problem with that so, aah.

As we shall see, this was an extremely devious means of approaching the Port Arthur issue because, at this stage, Bryant still had no idea of the charges that were about to be foisted upon him and therefore had no idea that the interview concerned the subject that would determine his entire future. In fact, on 5 July, the very day following the interview, Bryant was officially charged in the Hobart Supreme Court with 69 criminal charges arising from the Port Arthur incident. Prior to that, the only crime with which he had been charged was the murder of Kate Elizabeth Scott, who had been a victim of the shootings in the Broad Arrow Café. According to the official record, Bryant was charged with her death in a bedside hearing on 30 April 1996:

Paine: Do you know why you're here?

Bryant: Know why I'm here, well Inspector Warren was saying in the Royal [Hobart Hospital] that I was on one murder count.

Given the incredible magnitude of the allegations that were presented to Bryant for the first time during the 4 July interrogation, a lawyer should certainly have been in the room. In such circumstances, the intellectually challenged Bryant was obviously no good judge of his own interests. Furthermore, Bryant had been placed under a guardianship order in 1994 and was therefore not competent to decide whether a lawyer ought to have been present or not. Only a legally appointed guardian had the right to make that call.

To compound the sins of the Tasmanian criminal justice system, the interview was most unprofessionally conducted. The equipment frequently malfunctioned and the conversation was constantly interrupted. The result is said to be atrocious. However, there was no necessity to conduct the interview on 4 July and it could easily have been—indeed, *should* have been—postponed to such a time as the equipment was working properly. After all, the Port Arthur massacre was the biggest murder case in Australian history. Such adverse conditions therefore had to have been created deliberately. The unprofessional

conduct of the interview also suggests that both Paine and Warren knew that Bryant would never be properly defended and even that the case would never go to trial. As a Tasmania Police officer has admitted in an email to researcher Noel McDonald, the videotape was of such poor quality that "the defence would have had a field day if it had been presented" in court.²

Why would Paine and Warren have persisted in such a long interview if there was a high risk of Bryant's lawyer objecting to the tape's presentation in court?

On account of the deliberate negligence by which the videotape was made and the fact that the tape itself has never been released, we cannot be certain that anything attributed to Bryant in the printed record of the interrogation matches what he said. The transcript also omits a great deal of what he did say: a very substantial portion of the conversation has been withheld. Pages 1–9, 18, 23, 32–35, 40, 44–46, 79–81, 92–97 and 116–41 were deleted in their entirety, while most of pages 10, 91, 142 and 145 and parts of pages 17, 31, 36, 39, 41, 43, 47, 74, 78, 98, and 115 were also deleted.³

Even the pages that *were* released cannot be trusted entirely. No fewer than 80 of Bryant's comments have been rendered as "inaudible". Since there is a suspicious tendency for "inaudible" responses to appear in crucial parts of the conversation—particularly parts where Bryant's version of events contradicts that of his interrogators—it is hard to resist the conclusion that the material was excised as a means of withholding exculpatory material, e.g., references to potential alibi witnesses. In addition, it may have contained important clues as to how his movements and actions were manipulated prior to the massacre as a means of making him the scapegoat for it. If the official account of the massacre is true and the killings were perpetrated by a lone nut inexplicably run amok, there can be no good reason to withhold any sections of the transcript from the public at all.

Despite its massive shortcomings, the interrogation transcript remains invaluable as a record of Martin Bryant's side of the story. It is a great pity that Australians have condemned him without ever

taking on board what he had to say on the very first occasion on which he was confronted with the accusation of having perpetrated the Port Arthur massacre.

For those convinced of Bryant's innocence, the transcript also sheds a great deal of light on the devious processes by which he was framed. A careful reading of the transcript establishes beyond doubt that the police manipulated him into a situation in which the most heinous allegations could be raised against him, and he had absolutely no means of challenging them—no means, that is to say, other than his own extremely limited intelligence, which psychiatrist Ian Joblin states is roughly equal to that of an 11-year-old.

A day in the life of an unwitting patsy

Most Australians will be astounded to discover that in this interview Bryant not only denied carrying out the massacre but also related an entirely different narrative of the events of 28 April 1996 than that which has been presented to the public by the authorities.

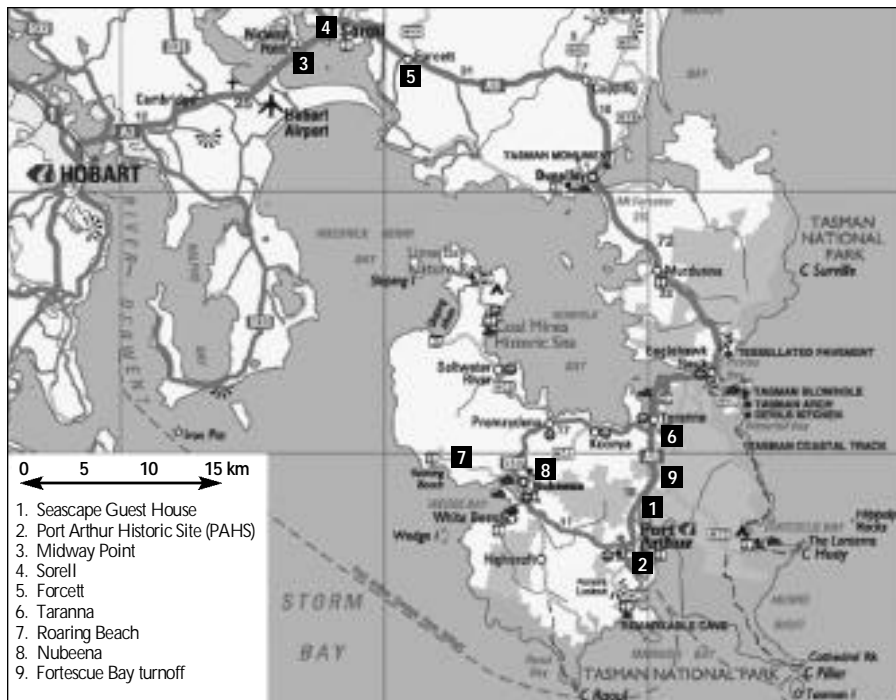
According to the official story put to the Hobart Supreme Court by Tasmania's Director of Public Prosecutions, Damian Bugg, QC, Bryant had set his alarm clock for 6 am, left his house in Clare Street, New Town, Hobart, at 9.47 am precisely (the time he allegedly activated his house alarm), and drove to Seascapes guest house, making stops at Midway Point (to buy a cigarette lighter), Sorell (to buy a bottle of tomato sauce), Forcett (to buy a cup of coffee) and Taranna (to buy petrol).

When he arrived at Seascapes, he murdered the owners, David Martin and his wife Sally, and loaded the building with firearms and ammunition that he had presumably brought with him in his car from Hobart. Bryant then proceeded to the Port Arthur Historic Site (PAHS), stopping to chat for five or 10 minutes with a neighbour of the Martins, Roger Larner, and to buy a small amount of marijuana on the way.

Bryant, on the other hand, told Inspectors Warren and Paine that he did not set his alarm clock at all that morning and that he rose at

7 or 8 am. He left the house around 11 am—"when the sun came up and it got a bit warm"—without turning on his house alarm, which he had last done on the previous occasion he went to Melbourne. He then drove to Roaring Beach on the western side of the Tasman Peninsula, stopping only once along the way—at the Sorell Bakery, where he bought a cappuccino. He emphatically denied having stopped at Midway Point to buy a cigarette lighter, at the Sorell service station supermarket to buy a bottle of tomato sauce—"Why would I want tomato sauce for?" he asked Inspector Warren—or at Taranna to buy petrol (he says the Volvo's tank was already full when he left Hobart).

Bryant says that after stopping at Sorell he proceeded via Taranna to Roaring Beach, where he surfed for about 20 minutes and noticed two other people bodysurfing in short wetsuits at the other end of the beach. After drying off in the sun, he went to Nubeena where he stopped for coffee and a toasted sandwich at "a little shop near the school". After this, he says he drove past the PAHS to visit the Martins at Seascapes Cottage.



Map of southeast Tasmania, indicating the main locations mentioned in this article.

Everything that happened after he set out for Seascapes is extremely obscure. Indeed, after Nubeena, Bryant's narrative of the day's events dissolves into what seems more of a nightmare sequence than anything else, for Bryant implicates himself in criminal acts which, as we shall see, he cannot possibly have carried out in reality, including an act that we know was actually perpetrated by someone else.

As we have already seen, Bryant's recollections of his doings on the morning of 28 April 1996 are not implausible; what's more, they are almost certainly true. There are no witness statements from staff at either the Sorell Bakery or the "little shop" in Nubeena contradicting Bryant's claim to have been there that day. It is also difficult to envisage a motive for Bryant to lie about the stops he made between Hobart and Roaring Beach. What would he have had to gain by denying that he had stopped at Midway Point, Forcett and Taranna? Whether he made four stops or just the one at Sorell made no difference to the allegations against him. Why would he lie about where he stopped to buy a coffee? His statement contradicts that of Gary King, a casual employee of the Shell service station at Forcett, who told police that he sold a coffee to "a young bloke" with "long blonde [*sic*] curly hair" who was driving a Volvo with "a surf board on top". But what does it matter whether Bryant bought a coffee at Sorell or Forcett? No matter where he bought it, it sheds no light on his alleged responsibility for the massacre.

Bryant also told Inspector Warren that he had paid for his coffee with gold coins from the glove compartment of his car. Yet Gary King says the man paid in five- and ten-cent coins. Another discrepancy is that Bryant told Warren that he had had no more than \$10 to \$15 with him that day, and all the money was in gold coins in the glove box of his car. Yet according to service station attendant Christopher Hammond, the "Bryant" who bought petrol at Taranna paid \$15 in two notes. Why would Bryant lie about these trivial matters?

But if it is hard to see what Bryant had to gain by lying about his trip from Hobart, it is easy to see what a Bryant impersonator would have stood to gain by making four stops along the way to Port Arthur. While Bryant stopped just once, which is not at all unusual for a trip that would only have taken an hour and a quarter, the impersonator would have wanted to attract as much attention to himself as possible within this short period. Thus he made pointless purchases—items that he could easily have brought with him from Hobart if he needed them—and paid for three out of four of them with small change in order to increase the likelihood that shopkeepers would recall the incidents afterwards. The multiple stops were necessary to ensure that after the massacre, a body of evidence existed that seemed to confirm that Bryant had travelled to Port Arthur that morning. The theory that an impersonator made four stops on the way to Port Arthur makes a good deal more sense than the idea that it was necessary for Bryant to conceal having made those stops.

Two further circumstances invite the conclusion that the stops were those of a Bryant impersonator. First, one of the four witnesses, Angelo Kessarios, who sold "Bryant" a cigarette lighter at Midway Point, recalled being perplexed that "Bryant" did not recognise him. The most plausible explanation is that Kessarios had encountered an impersonator. Clearly, Kessarios did not know

Bryant so well that he could avoid being taken in by a double, while the double did not know Bryant's background so well that he knew he ought to behave more familiarly. Second, Gary King said in his statement that the "Bryant" he'd encountered on the Sunday morning commented that he [King] served him "a nice cup of coffee" the previous Tuesday. King did not confirm that he'd had a previous encounter with "Bryant". Whether or not this is a memory lapse on King's part, there is nothing on record to suggest that the *real* Bryant visited Forcett on the Tuesday.

Incident at the Fortescue Bay turnoff

The bizarre twist in Bryant's narrative begins "At the Fortescue Bay turnoff, just, ohh, about three or four minutes away from the Martins' farm" on the Hobart side of Seascapes.⁴ Bryant confessed, "unfortunately I held up a car, I took ah, I saw this car I liked and got, umm, held up the person in the car and kidnapped him". The car was "a nice-looking BMW" occupied by three people, a male, a female and a child. Bryant says he ordered the man inside the boot of the car and made the female and the child get inside his Volvo. Why did he take the man hostage? "I was a bit worried that if he didn't go, he'd go off in my car," Bryant explained. After commandeering the BMW solely because he "liked" it (he states that his intention was simply to take it for a drive), Bryant sped off towards Seascapes at 140 km/h.

What is striking about this story is that it combines elements from two different events that took place shortly after the massacre inside the Broad Arrow Café: the PAHS gunman's hijacking of a gold-coloured BMW sedan belonging to Ken and Mary Rose Nixon and his subsequent taking of a

hostage, Glenn Pears, who had been the driver of a white Corolla with a female passenger, Zoe Hall, outside the Port Arthur General Store. Bryant is not simply being forgetful here:

Inspector Warren: Do you remember seeing a white, ah, small Japanese car, like a Corolla?

Bryant: Corolla, no. Not at all.

But if Bryant's story about hijacking a car at the Fortescue Bay turnoff does not resemble any one incident in the official narrative of the massacre, it matches perfectly an incident discussed by "Jamie"—protagonist of the Seascapes siege—in a telephone conversation with police negotiator Sgt Terry McCarthy that took place shortly after 5 pm on 28 April:

Sgt McCarthy: Now you were talking just a little bit about the, um, Rick having come from Fortescue Bay. Can you just enlighten me as to what happened there?

Jamie: Yeah, yeah; I got him and managed to get him, his wife, she, he wanted to participate, um, in the kidnapping in, instead of his wife. I thought alright, quick...get in, get into the car and I've got him as a hostage.

McCarthy: Okay, okay, now you were in your, your car there, were you?

Jamie: Yes.

McCarthy: Right. You're in your car and you wha, what, pulled them up? They were driving along in a car, is that correct?

Jamie: That's correct.

McCarthy: Alright, and and what, how did you stop them, Jamie?

Bryant implicates himself in criminal acts which, as we shall see, he cannot possibly have carried out in reality.

Jamie: Had to get a rifle.
McCarthy: Oh I see, right, so you, you, you were standing on the road, they drove up and you pointed...
Jamie: Yeah.
McCarthy: ...the rifle at them and they stopped.
Jamie: Oh yes.
McCarthy: Is that right?
Jamie: Yes, that's correct.
McCarthy: Okay, an, and what did you...you were planning on taking these people hostage?
Jamie: That's right.
McCarthy: Right. Why, why Jamie? Do you want to tell me why?
Jamie: Oh man, ya [inaudible]... You, that's what you're getting paid for, I me...
McCarthy: Well, I'd like to hear it from you.
Jamie: No, na, na, no.
McCarthy: Is there any...reason why you took these particular people?

Although we never learn the reason, it is subsequently established that the name of the male hostage was Rick, a 34-year-old man from (Fort) Lauderdale, Florida, that his wife was a very highly educated woman with a good job, and that the child was only a year old:

McCarthy: Now Jamie, we were talking earlier on about, ar, Rick and the fact that you kidnapped him from Fortescue Bay.

Jamie: That's correct. Yeah.
McCarthy: Do you want to tell me about that?

Jamie: Not really, no.
McCarthy: Well, you talked about, you talked about, ah, his wife and, er, his child and, um, we're having difficulties locating his wife and child.

Jamie: Yes, she's only 12 months old, the little child, I found out from him.

McCarthy: Right. What, from him?
Jamie: Umm.

McCarthy: Right. What about his wife? Do you know anything about his wife?

Jamie: Um, sh, yeah, I do.
McCarthy: Right.

Jamie: I know...
McCarthy: Can you tell me something about it?

Jamie: I know how high up in things she is. Yeah.
McCarthy: I'm sorry?

Jamie: I know how high up she is in the different areas.
McCarthy: How, how high up? What do you mean by that, Jamie?

Jamie: In work, higher than what you are...
McCarthy: The...

Jamie: ...the intelligence and everything, university and everything.

McCarthy: Oh right, is she, she's only, she, er, a university, er...

Jamie: Oh, she's passed that; she's got full-time work, but I'm not going to let you know.

When the conversation returned to Rick—who Jamie told McCarthy was a lawyer—Jamie launched into the most bizarre statements, one of which implies that Jamie actually knew Rick's wife:

McCarthy: ...we're having problems locating Rick's wife.
Jamie: Where is she?
McCarthy: Well, we don't know because we're not real sure who Rick is.
Jamie: Oh I don't know, she went round to, um, to Fortescue Bay.
McCarthy: How do you know that, er, Jamie?
Jamie: She headed round that way.
McCarthy: She headed around that way?
Jamie: Yeah. Couldn't get...
McCarthy: Right. Well (cough)
Jamie: ...away quick enough.
McCarthy: Well (cough), if, if, um, if Rick's there, would you mind asking...
Jamie: Well...
McCarthy: ...him what his surname is if you don't know?
Jamie: ...apparently, um, she's had a pretty hard life until she met, um, thingamabob...

McCarthy: She...
Jamie: ...here.
McCarthy: Yeah.
Jamie: Rick and, um, he's great, she's a great lady, they're both professional people.
McCarthy: Right. What do, what does, ah, what does she do?
Jamie: Um, well, I can't tell you that.
McCarthy: Why not?
Jamie: Cause I don't know.

Whatever we think about the astounding number of bizarre things

Jamie told Sgt McCarthy over the phone on the evening of 28 April, the above excerpts establish that the incident cannot be connected with the massacre at Port Arthur. For Jamie—whether he was Bryant or not—clearly cannot have been hijacking the Nixons' gold BMW or taking Glenn Pears hostage near the Port Arthur General Store at the same time that he was hijacking a BMW and taking "Rick" hostage at the Fortescue Bay turnoff.

Did the Fortescue Bay turnoff carjacking really take place?

Given that the incident at the Fortescue Bay turnoff is described by both "Jamie" (on 28 April) and Martin Bryant (on 4 July), it is striking that there is no record anywhere of a 34-year-old man from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and his family being the victims of a carjacking that day. The likelihood, therefore, is that the incident never took place and that Bryant very largely imagined his own participation in a scenario whose outlines he could only have learned about from others.

Most people are aware, due to the unprecedented wave of false accusations of rape and child abuse that swept the United States in the 1980s, of the existence of false memory syndrome. As Dr Elizabeth Loftus, Professor of Psychology at the University of Washington, writes in *The Myth of Repressed Memory* (1994): "We can easily distort memories for the details of an event that you did experience. And we can also go so far as to plant entirely false

Bryant very largely imagined his own participation in a scenario whose outlines he could only have learned about from others.

memories—we call them rich false memories because they are so detailed and so big."

Less well known is the fact that pseudomemories can emerge in self-incriminating forms. The textbook case is that of Paul Ingram, an American man accused of sexual abuse by his two daughters, who in the late 1980s "produced an astonishing series of self-incriminating 'memories'" relating to his alleged membership of a satanic cult which had supposedly sacrificed 25 babies. According to John Frow, what is striking about the Ingram case is the "breathtaking readiness on the part of its major players to form lasting 'memories' on very slight provocation": not only Ingram and his daughters but a son, his wife and two of his colleagues implicated in the supposed satanic cult and in ongoing abuse of the daughters, either at some time remembered major and almost certainly non-existent crimes or at least suspected their own complicity even if not remembering it; and Ingram "remembered", and came firmly to believe in, a pseudomemory suggested to him by a sociologist working as a consultant for the prosecution.⁵

People of extremely low intelligence—as well as those with certain types of mental illness—are probably even more capable of persuading themselves to believe that they have done terrible things which in fact they have not done, than people of average intelligence. According to Richard Ofshe, a sociologist at the University of California, Berkeley, obtaining confessions from mentally disabled people "is like taking candy from a baby".⁶ That such persons have generated false, self-incriminating memories that have led to their being imprisoned or even executed is a documented fact. Two examples are given in Bob Woffinden's 1987 book *Miscarriages of Justice*, including those of Timothy Evans, who confessed to killing his wife, and Margaret Livesey, who confessed to the murder of her son. Neither was guilty. Thus, with respect to

Bryant's admissions regarding the Fortescue Bay turnoff carjacking, we would seem to be looking at a classic case of the mentally deficient person confessing to a crime that he believes he must have committed, even if he doesn't actually remember doing so or know why he would have done such a thing.

It is possible to reconstruct the laborious mental process that would have led the hapless Bryant to believe that he had actually perpetrated the Fortescue Bay turnoff carjacking. When the interview with Inspectors Warren and Paine began, Bryant knew no more than that he was being detained on a single charge of murder. He had no idea what had happened, who had died or why he was being held responsible. Building an explanation on the basis of certain facts that must have been leaked to him about the case, presumably by a doctor and "security guards" (who may in fact have been intelligence agents feeding him carefully selected tidbits of information), he finally believed himself to have commandeered a BMW at gunpoint and taken the male driver hostage. Although Bryant knew that the man he thinks he took hostage had subsequently died, he did not admit having killed him intentionally. He stated that, as he was knocking on the door of

Seascope Cottage, he heard the vehicle explode. His assumption was that his hostage had died in the explosion:

Warren: Do you, you've already said that you remembered me going to see you at the hospital?

Bryant: Ohh yes. Mmm.

Warren: And that I told you that you were being charged with...

Bryant: A murder count.

Warren: A murder.

Bryant: Yeah.

Warren: What recollection have you got of that?

Bryant: Must've been the hostage, the bloke in the BMW must've died.

If the vehicle exploded while he was knocking on the door of Seascope, how can the explanation for his burns be that he was in the car when it ignited?

How can he possibly not remember where he was when he "got burnt"?

Although Bryant did not recall having set the vehicle on fire, he realised that the explosion had to have started somehow. After concluding (erroneously, as we shall see) that only he could have started the fire, he tried to imagine what he would have to have done to have caused it. He decided that he must have transferred "two or three" plastic drums of petrol from the Volvo to the BMW, tipped the petrol all over the car, and then lit it using a match (or a lighter) that he must have found inside his jacket pocket. Having decided that this is how he had set fire to the car, Bryant seized upon the fire as an explanation for his burns: "I must've been in the car when it went up, 'cos I got burnt." He reasoned that the whole mess that had landed him in gaol had been the result of "a bad thing", by which he meant "playing with fire" as he had done when he was 10 years old.

The problems with Bryant's story are immediately apparent. First, there is the matter of where he was when the explosion took place. If the vehicle exploded while he was knocking on the door of Seascope, how can the explanation for his burns be that he was in the car when it ignited? How can he

possibly not remember where he was when he "got burnt"? Second, there is the problem of how the explosion started. Bryant told Inspectors Warren and Paine that he had not been carrying anything with him that he could have used to start a fire. So how could this non-smoker happen to find himself carrying something in his shirt pocket that proved useful for precisely this purpose? And how can he possibly not recall whether the object was a set of matches or a cigarette lighter?

Clearly, Bryant was foundering for an explanation that would account for the burns to his body and his subsequent loss of liberty. Since he was not trying to evade responsibility for the carjacking and the subsequent explosion, he found himself in the dilemma of a person who accepts that he is guilty but is having great difficulty envisaging the precise circumstances in which he committed the offences. Thus Bryant's recurring use of "must have": he "must've" played with fire, he "must've" transferred petrol drums into the BMW, the hostage "must've" still been in the car when it exploded. In short, Bryant was desperately hypothesising. If he had really been responsible for the explosion and not seeking to deny it, how can he possibly not remember

what he had done to cause it? If he was suffering from post-traumatic amnesia, how is it that he was able to recall everything clearly enough that had happened prior to the carjacking?

Between his arrest on 29 April and his interrogation on 4 July, therefore, Bryant seems to have performed mental cartwheels in an effort to devise a scenario that would explain how his misfortunes had come about. By this date, he had confabulated a scenario in which he had commandeered a BMW and set it alight. As we saw, the scenario bears only superficial similarities to the gunman's actual capture of the Nixons' vehicle—an event that was viewed by several witnesses including Jim Laycock, who knew Bryant but did not recognise the gunman as Bryant.

Although the real gunman seized the Nixons' BMW near the PAHS tollbooth, Bryant believes he hijacked a BMW at the Fortescue Bay turnoff. Since he cannot even get the location right, his confession to having captured the vehicle and taken a hostage has to be dismissed as sheer fantasy. However, on account of its resemblance to the scenario recounted to Sgt McCarthy by "Jamie", its key elements (the BMW, the hostage, the petrol drums, the explosion) had to have been suggested to him somehow. The question is: how?

What I propose is that, once they were in total control of Bryant's environment—and after his arrest, Bryant was subjected to weeks on end of virtual solitary confinement—government agents specialising in mind control convinced Bryant that, due to the traumatic nature of the events in which they alleged he had been involved, he was suffering from psychogenic amnesia (memory blockages). They would have offered to help him "recover" his lost memories. Psychiatrists known to have worked with Bryant who may have been involved in such a memory recovery program would include Dr Fred E. Emery, of the notorious brainwashing specialists the Tavistock Institute, who died on 10 April 1997, that is, only a year after Port Arthur—a fact that might well be regarded as suspicious—and Emeritus Professor Ivor Jones of the University of Hobart, who headed the two floors of Royal Hobart Hospital which were devoted to psychiatric studies at the time Bryant was being detained there.

The best explanation, therefore, is that we are looking at a case of artificially induced memories. Bryant would have been subjected to the whole arsenal of coercive psychological techniques that are used to break down resistance and enhance suggestibility. Techniques likely to have been employed for the purpose of making him receptive to pseudo-memories would include sleep deprivation, electric shock treatment, hypnosis, "deep sleep" therapy, torture and the administration of beta-blockers like Propranolol.

By such methods, Bryant's suggestibility would have been elevated to the point that he was fully capable of mistaking a mere narrative for authentic memories.

Such a program would probably have been supplemented by a short video portraying the events themselves. I conjecture that an

individual disguised as Bryant—presumably the Port Arthur gunman himself—perpetrated the Fortescue Bay turnoff carjacking, but that the episode was a mere charade performed for the benefit of a video camera.

The entire sequence of events would have been filmed for the purpose of brainwashing Bryant into believing that he had been the actual perpetrator, that he was the man shown in the film. The video camera was then taken by the gunman to the PAHS, where it was abandoned in the Broad Arrow Café as a means of ensuring that it reached the police.

If Bryant was subjected to repeated viewings of such footage while under the influence of the appropriate psychoactive drugs, he would have wound up believing quite sincerely that what he had seen portrayed so vividly on the screen had in fact been his own memories.

This theory helps explain a hitherto obscure circumstance: the fact that the Port Arthur gunman, despite being sufficiently burdened already with a heavily stuffed sports bag, was also lugging around with him a large black video camera. Although the camera was discarded at the café and is known to have been recovered by police, it has not been heard of since.

As it is most unlikely that the gunman would have encumbered himself with this object for no reason, the camera had to have played a role in the drama.

Although I cannot prove that the camera contained footage of the Fortescue Bay turnoff incident, it might well have contained footage of some kind. If it didn't, it's hard to see why the official narrative of the case entirely glosses over the matter of whether there was anything on the camera.⁷

Although Bryant's confabulated scenario failed to match the official account of his alleged deeds, it was serviceable enough for the purpose of forging a link with the sinister activities of the real gunman. Inspectors Paine and Warren would have felt gratified that, for all its logical problems, Bryant's scenario contained four episodes that feature in the official account of the Port Arthur massacre: (i) arriving at Seascope (ii) in a stolen BMW (iii) with a male hostage in the

boot and (iv) setting the BMW alight. Nonetheless, Bryant's scenario can be rejected as false because at least three known facts about the case directly contradict it.

First, the BMW was actually set on fire by Constable Andrew M. Fogarty of the Special Operations Group (SOG), who was the first police officer to arrive at Seascope. According to a police insider—apparently Superintendent Bob Fielding, who arrived at the police operations centre at Taranna about half an hour after the incident occurred—Fogarty had fired a phosphorus grenade at the vehicle in order to prevent it from being used as an escape vehicle. (The drums of petrol which Bryant had allegedly brought with him from Hobart that morning, but which no eyewitness actually reported seeing, may therefore be completely fictitious.)

Second, while Bryant believes that the BMW driver was still in the boot when the explosion occurred, the body of the hostage—

The best explanation, therefore, is that we are looking at a case of artificially induced memories. Bryant would have been subjected to the whole arsenal of coercive psychological techniques...

Glenn Pears—was discovered inside Seascapes, not inside the BMW, suggesting that the gunman had freed him from the boot of the BMW and escorted him into the house.

Third, the burns to Bryant's body were in reality sustained the next day during the Seascapes fire. (He emerged from Seascapes on the morning of 29 April 1996 with his back in flames.)⁸

In short, although Bryant's story constitutes an admission of criminal acts, *it does not add up to an admission of responsibility for any events that actually took place that day*. Damian Bugg, QC, was therefore misleading the Court when, on 19 November 1996, he declared that "Jamie"—who he assumed to have been Bryant—had admitted stealing the Nixons' BMW and taking Glenn Pears hostage. In fact, "Jamie", as we've seen, had only related a parallel event involving "Rick" from Florida. Bryant did no more than "confess" to the same episode.

Bryant's distinctive appearance and vehicle

When his police interrogation began, the only significant information Bryant knew about the events of 28–29 April is that Seascapes had burned down and a number of people had perished in the fire. He said he obtained the information not from Inspectors Paine and Warren (who seem to have been surprised to learn that he knew this), but from "a doctor, and security guards". What few Australians know is that Bryant was saddened to hear about Seascapes' destruction and expressed sorrow for the Martins' loss. "Worked hard all their lives, renovating; took them years to build it, renovate it and to start it all up, and it's just so sad to see; apparently it's burnt down, it's so sad to see it burnt down," he lamented.

Before we recount the process by which Bryant was first made aware of his alleged responsibility for the Port Arthur massacre, it is necessary to remind the reader once again that neither forensic nor eyewitness evidence exists to link him to it. The case against him depends entirely upon two circumstantial factors: the distinctiveness of his personal appearance and that of his 1979-model yellow Volvo. The police framing of Bryant for the massacre therefore included obtaining concessions from him as to the distinctiveness of his appearance and that of his Volvo.

The matter of his appearance was raised spontaneously by Bryant himself, but was instantly capitalised upon by Inspector Warren, who deviously connected it to "Port Arthur", even though Bryant hadn't mentioned that location himself:

Warren: Martin, getting back to that point about the hostage, you taking the hostage because you didn't want him telling the police. What didn't you want him telling the police?

Bryant: That I took his, umm, car.

Warren: But I mean, if you'd have left him on the side of the road, he wouldn't have known where you could've driven.

Bryant: Yeah, but he could've let them know that there was a chap with blonde [*sic*] hair, took me car, stole me car. So I sort of put him in the boot to be safe.

Warren: So you thought your looks that day were distinctive, and if someone said they saw a chap with blonde hair...

Bryant: Mmm.

Warren: ...at Port Arthur on that particular day?

Second, the Volvo:

Warren: We have lots of people who are telling us that they saw you at Port Arthur and your car.

Bryant: Well, it must've been another, there's other Volvos...

Warren: With surfboards on the top? With someone with long blonde hair driving them or getting out of them?

Bryant: There's not many with surfboards on top.

As we shall see below, these concessions left Bryant little wiggle room when police confronted him with a photograph of what seemed to be his yellow Volvo parked at Port Arthur. Once they had succeeded in having Bryant admit the distinctiveness of his appearance and that of his Volvo, Inspectors Paine and Warren had to do one more thing before they could confront him with the accusation that he had perpetrated the massacre inside the Broad Arrow Café: they had to convince him that he had entered the PAHS that day.



Photograph of the yellow Volvo abandoned by the gunman near the PAHS toll booth as he exited the site.

To do so, Warren confronted Bryant with generalised references to eyewitness sightings of himself which he was ill-placed to contest, having already conceded the distinctiveness of his appearance and of his Volvo:

Warren: Well, what would you say if I told you that you were seen going into Port Arthur and in fact you were at the toll gate?

Bryant: I couldn't've been.

Warren: And more than that, that you did complain about the price of admission.

Bryant: Umm, I don't remember going in, into Port Arthur or going through the toll

gate at all.

Warren: Well, as you said a minute ago, you, your description of the long blonde hair does make you, umm, stand out from the crowd.

Bryant: Mmm, exactly.

Warren: What about your yellow Volvo?

Bryant: That would, wouldn't it? That would stand out.

Later in the interview, Warren showed him a photograph of a vehicle that Bryant conceded looked like his own Volvo:

Warren: Martin, I want you to have a look at this photo. It's photo number zero one one two. In it is a car I believe to be yours and it's depicted adjacent to the toll booth.

Bryant: Couldn't be mine. Where'd you get that? I don't remember being stationary [inaudible]...

Warren: Do you agree that that could be a surfboard on the top?

Bryant: Yes, I think it probably is.

Warren: And it's certainly similar to your, ahh, your car?

Bryant: Mmm.

Warren: The registration number of this vehicle I think is CG two eight three five.

Bryant: I don't remember the registration.

Warren: Well that's your car. So that certainly suggests it because that's the exit road at the toll booth, that your car had been.

Bryant: How could the car be there when I didn't go, go there in the first place [inaudible]...?

Warren: As I said, sorry, as I've said, we have, there are lots of people saying that they saw you in the Port Arthur site and your car in the Port Arthur site.

Bryant: Mmm, I can't recall that.

That Inspector Warren twice told Bryant that "lots of people" had seen him at Port Arthur is a clear-cut case of police mendacity. Police witness statements show that the eyewitnesses had seen a man with long blond hair—who, on account of numerous discrepancies, could not have been Bryant. Furthermore, as we saw in the previous article, only one person who actually knew Bryant observed the Port Arthur shooter in action. That person, Jim Laycock, got a good enough look at the gunman to estimate his age but told police that he "did not recognise the male as Martin Bryant". Another witness, Michael Copping, who knew Bryant "by casual contact", saw the gunman driving the Volvo but did not indicate in his police statement that the man had been Bryant.

In addition, it should be noted that Warren claimed that "Bryant" had complained about the price of admission to the PAHS. Although he made this statement twice during the interview, both PAHS employees who said that they accepted the money from the Volvo driver, Aileen Kingston and Steven Howard, stated the exact opposite in their respective witness statements. Kingston related: "I was expecting an argument about the entrance fee from the Volvo driver as he looked to me that he didn't have a lot of money. This didn't eventuate, and the driver produced \$50.00 and I gave him the change with the tickets as well as a briefing, and he then drove off towards the site." Inspector Warren seems to have been so determined to stick to a prefabricated script that he felt free to disregard information supplied by actual eyewitnesses.

And what about the Port Arthur massacre itself? Towards the end of the interrogation, Inspectors Warren and Paine finally broached the subject for which they had spent several hours laying the groundwork. After again denying that he had even been at Port Arthur on 28 April, Bryant reacted as any reasonable person would when charged with crimes as heinous as the Broad Arrow Café shootings:

Warren: We believe you went into Port Arthur. Had a slight argument with the toll gate person about the price on entry. We believe you then went to park your car and an attendant or someone...

Bryant: Park the car.

Warren: ...said you couldn't park in a certain spot, so you didn't and sometime later you did move your car to that spot. We believe you went to the Broad Arrow Café with that bag over there, containing some guns and your video camera. You purchased a meal, you went outside, sat down, and then went back into the café. Took one.

Bryant: But you might've. That's like me saying to you, that you were down there.

Warren: But the difference is, Martin, my car wasn't down there and I haven't been identified as being down there and I wasn't down there. And then you took one of the guns out of your bag and opened fire in the café.

Bryant: Why would I do that? I mean...

Warren: I don't know, you tell me.

Bryant: Why, why would anyone do a thing like that, what?

Warren: Well, you tell us.

Bryant: [inaudible]

Warren: That's what we want to know Martin, why.

Bryant: What, what, would, I wouldn't hurt a person in my life.

Inspector Warren then reminded Bryant that he had already admitted having done someone some harm that day:

Warren: Well, you've already said you'd put the man in your boot of the car.

Bryant: Only, yes, yes.

Warren: Then you've set fire to the car and you thought that he was in the boot.

Bryant: [inaudible]

Warren: So how do you explain that?

Bryant: It was a bad thing...

Bryant: Well, I shouldn't've gone and kidnapped him and the BMW. It's the wrong thing. That and, that, and in the, being caught with not having a driver's licence. So they're the two things I've done wrong. I don't know why I stole the BMW in the first place. I wish I'd [inaudible].

**His low IQ, in a nutshell,
is the real reason why he
seems destined to spend the
rest of his life in prison.**

Bryant found himself checkmated. By having him admit that he had done one bad deed that day, Inspector Warren effectively deprived him of a case for asserting that he would not be the kind of person who would murder 35 people! Although the taking of a hostage is clearly not a crime of the same magnitude as mass murder, most readers will think that Bryant has been caught up in his own lies and that the truth will unravel, inch by inch.

The problem with the case Inspectors Paine and Warren presented to Bryant,

however, is that it relied upon assertions, not evidence. Apart from the aforementioned image of a yellow Volvo—not necessarily his—parked at the Port Arthur toll gate, they showed Bryant no visual evidence—no photographs, not even the video allegedly made by American tourist James Balasko which purports to show the gunman at the scene—that would decide the matter. What's more, they showed the accused man nothing of a forensic nature—fingerprints or DNA—that could substantiate their extraordinary allegations.

In other words, when it came to convincing Bryant that he had been responsible for the most appalling crime in recent Australian history, as late as 4 July 1996 Inspectors Paine and Warren still had nothing to fall back on except the distinctiveness of his appearance and that of his car. However, it is not hard to see that both are things that could easily have been imitated by someone involved in a plot to set up Bryant; indeed, the conspicuous absence of any other kind of evidence against him renders such a scenario a virtual certainty. Unfortunately, Bryant's intellectual limitations are such that he was incapable of graduating to the relatively complex idea that someone had emulated his appearance in order to set him up. His low IQ, in a nutshell, is the real reason why he seems destined to spend the rest of his life in prison.

Continued next issue...

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THE FAR WEST DRUG METAGROUP

DRUGS, MANAGED VIOLENCE AND THE RUSSIAN 9/11

*The group accused
of staging the
Russian 9/11 has
links with organised
criminal societies,
foreign private
military companies,
Islamist jihadists,
Central Asian
narcobarons and
the CIA.*

Part 2 of 2

by Peter Dale Scott, PhD

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Allegations of Drug-Trafficking and Far West Ltd

Yasenev [in his essay "An Orange Revolution is in Store for Russia", December 17, 2004, at <http://www.ru.compromat>] links Saidov, Surikov and others to their former service in a drug-interception group in Afghanistan under a Leonid Kosyakov, who in 2004 headed a company called Far West Ltd:

Leonid Leonidovich Kosyakov, b. 1955, Ukrainian citizen. Until 2005 resided in Arab Emirates and Switzerland. Citizen of Ukraine. Retired from the service in May 1993. Presently the president of Far West Ltd.

In 1983–85 Kosyakov was in command of a special group in Shindand (Afghanistan), assigned to intercept caravans with drugs. In different times under his direct command served Filin, Lunev, Likhvintsev, Surikov, Petrov, as well as Saidov.⁵⁶

Yasenev also presents testimony that this group developed into what the Russians call an "OPS" (organised criminal society), responsible for massive drug-trafficking:

These accusations were made by the former officer of the Main Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine Sergei Petrov (alias Serge Rodin, French citizen).

According to his testimony:

"The OPS...was involved in drug trafficking since the beginning of 1990s:

– from 1995 the OPS transports heroin (produced in Afghanistan) from Tajikistan to European countries via Russia with the assistance of the Russian Defense Ministry.

– from 2000 the OPS is involved in smuggling Colombian cocaine to Russia through the seaports of Novorossiysk and St Petersburg under the disguise of import shipments from Latin America.

"Among the OPS contacts in Novorossiysk is Saidov; in St Petersburg it used to be Roman Tsepov.

"Received profits are used for personal enrichment of the OPS leaders, the officials at the Ministry of Defense who provide them with "the roof" [protection], and for financing extremist activities."

In November of 2003, Rodin contacted the law enforcement agencies of Germany and France. Their investigation did not result in any actions against Filin, Likhvintsev, and their partners.

In January 2004, Rodin was blown up in his car in South Africa...

Yasenev's charge of a military organised crime group under Filin had been reported a year earlier by Russian journalist Nikita Kaledin [Stringer-news, November 4, 2003]:

There is a powerful military organised crime community which from 1992 through to the present has controlled substantial drug flows from Afghanistan to Russia and Europe and is also involved in laundering "dirty" money and is actively involved in Russia's political life. The community is controlled by former intelligence officers, Afghan war veterans, and now drug barons Vova Filin and Lesha Pribalt. The former lives in Switzerland, the latter in London. Both make quite frequent trips to Moscow, Dushanbe, Nazran, and Khankala...

Filin and Pribalt literally flooded Russia with heroin. The Kremlin could not tolerate this abomination any longer and ordered a mighty "Chekist raid" [i.e., ordered the FSB to shut down the operation] against the narcobarons. However, it is rumoured that the raid has ended up with the agreement that the latter would (1) share their profits; (2) help in facilitating the peaceful referendum on the constitution in Chechnya; (3) bring some order to the drug market by liquidating the leaders of ethnic criminal groups.⁵⁷

As if in fulfilment of the third point, Surikov in 2001 denounced the leaders of an influential Tajik heroin cartel, including the mayor of the Tajik capital, Dushanbe.⁵⁸ (Tajiks until then had been one of the ethnic mafias who most dominated the trafficking of Afghan heroin through Russia.)

Far West Ltd, Halliburton, Diligence LLC, New Bridge and Neil Bush

The connection to Far West Ltd of Filin, Likhvinsky, Surikov and Saidov (along with Alfonso Davidovich) has since been stunningly corroborated by a news story on the Pravda-info website [May 3, 2005] about Far West Ltd and Kosyakov's resignation from it.

At a meeting of its stockholders on May 2 in the Hotel Ritz Carlton in Dubai, Far West Ltd accepted the retirement of the president...Leonid Kosyakov, who moved to government service in Ukraine. Vladimir Filin, member of the Editorial Board of Pravda-info, was elected the new president, at the same time retaining his previous position as executive director. The meeting of stockholders, in accordance with its charter, selected new members of the board of directors of Far West Ltd, which will now contain nine members. Besides Vladimir Filin, Anatolii Baranov and Anton Surikov, it will include four more members of the Editorial Board of Pravda-info: Audrius Butkevicius, Aleksei Likhvintsev, Natal'ia Roeva, and Ruslan Saidov, and also Valerii Lunev,^[59] a veteran of the Armed Forces, and Alfonso Davidovich, a political scientist from Venezuela.

Far West, the story said, *...specialises in consulting work on questions of security in conducting business in regions of the world with unstable environments and hiring personnel for foreign private military companies [last three words in English]. Its head office is located in Switzerland. In addition, the Agency [Far West Ltd] has a network of representatives in the OAE [United Arab Emirates], Afghanistan, Colombia, the autonomous region of Kosovo, the autonomous republic of Crimea, Georgia, and the Volga Federal District of the RF [Russian Federation].⁶⁰*

In 2005, Filin gave Pravda-info [September 2] some details about Far West's work, and revealed that the firm had been co-founded by "a sub-division of a well-known American corporation". He said that the company's new contract is:

...connected with the secured transport of commercial shipments from Afghanistan, where we have an office, to ports on the Black Sea. In Afghanistan there is a well-known US air base in Bagram. It is connected by an aerial bridge with a number of other US air bases. For example, with the largest base in Frankfurt-on-Main, that's in Germany, with an intermediary landing in Chkalovsk, in the Moscow area. But the most commercially attractive route seems to be that from Bagram to the US air base in Magas, in Kyrgyzstan. By the way, it is quite near the Russian air base in Kant. A significant flow of shipments passes through Magas; there is a niche there for commercial shipments, too. This is very profitable. It is much more profitable than routing commercial shipments from Afghanistan through

Tajikistan. Therefore last year we completely withdrew from all shipping through Tajikistan and closed our office in that country.

[Pravda-info:] *Who are your partners?*

Who our partners are is a commercial secret. I can say that they are four private firms from three countries—Turkey, Russia and the USA—which engage among other things in shipping. One of these firms is a sub-division of a well-known American corporation. This firm is a co-founder of our agency.⁶¹

We can assume that Pravda-info is an inside source for information about Far West, for the two organisations seem in fact to be two different manifestations of the same group. Among the directors of Far West on the masthead of Pravda-info we find first of all Anton Surikov, followed by Anatolii Baranov, Aleksei Likhvintsev, Ruslan Saidov, Vladimir Filin, Natal'ia Roeva and Audrius Butkevicius.⁶²

Also on the Pravda-info masthead is Boris Kagarlitsky, who, as

we saw in the first part of this essay, is a main source for the Western accounts of the meeting in southern France, written by Patrick Cockburn, Nafeez Ahmed and John Dunlop.⁶³ Many of the Far West directors, notably Anton Surikov, are or have been associated with Kagarlitsky at the Moscow Institute of Globalization Studies (IPROG).⁶⁴

Although Filin and Pravda-info did not identify the foreign private military companies with which Far West worked, Yasenev did:

Filin and Likhvintsev do business with foreign private military

companies (PMCs):

- *Meteoric Tactical Solutions (South Africa)—in Angola;*
- *Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR Halliburton)—in Colombia, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Georgia, and Iraq.*
- *Diligence Iraq LLC (controlled by the Kuwaiti Mohammed al-Sagar)—in Iraq.*

Their cooperation with these companies began in the end of 1994 in Angola on the initiative of Victor Bout, who was involved in the shipments of Soviet-made arms to the antigovernment group UNITA in exchange for raw diamonds.^[65] Apparently, Bout became interested in Likhvintsev's contacts (L. worked in Angola in 1986–87). Later, in October of 1998, Filin, Likhvintsev's wife Liudmila Rozkina (b. 1966) and Anton Surikov (at that time he worked in the Russian government) established the company Far West Ltd, with the office in Lausanne, which officially does security consulting for business ventures in countries with unstable regimes. De facto, this is a legalized form of recruiting mercenaries for PMCs.⁶⁶

Furthermore, Yasenev claims that some of Far West's work with Halliburton is apparently approved by the CIA for geopolitical purposes:

In 2003–2004, Filin and Likhvintsev worked on the Georgian project, financed by KBR Halliburton, apparently, with the approval of the CIA. The project had the goal of weakening the competitors of Halliburton in [the] oil business and, in a broader context, of facilitating the geopolitical objectives of the United States in the Caucasus. The OPS man in Georgia is Audrius Butkevicius, former Lithuanian minister of defense, presently advisor to Badri Patarkatsishvili.⁶⁷

Yasenev claims that some of Far West's work with Halliburton is apparently approved by the CIA for geopolitical purposes.

Some of Yasenev's information about Diligence Iraq is corroborated by a press release dated December 8, 2003, from Diligence itself.⁶⁸ Diligence LLC, a private military company (PMC), could be described as a CIA spin-off [see David Isenberg, "Myths and mystery", *Asia Times*, May 20, 2004]:

*Diligence was founded by William Webster, the only man to head both the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mike Baker, its chief executive officer, spent 14 years at the CIA as a covert field operations officer specializing in counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations. Whitley Bruner, its chief operating officer in Baghdad, was once the CIA station chief in Iraq.*⁶⁹

Its partner in Diligence Middle East (DME) is New Bridge Strategies, whose political clout was described by the *Financial Times* [December 11, 2003]:

*New Bridge was established in May [2003] and came to public attention because of the Republican heavyweights on its board—most linked to one or other Bush administration [officials] or to the family itself. Those include Joe Allbaugh, George W. Bush's presidential campaign manager, and Ed Rogers and Lanny Griffith, former George H. W. Bush aides.*⁷⁰

Joe Allbaugh, the co-chairman of the company, was head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the day of the 9/11 attacks and, indeed, until March 2003, the month that the US-led coalition invaded Iraq.

The *Financial Times* [*op. cit.*] wrote that the success of New Bridge in securing contracts had to do with their relationship to Neil Bush, the President's younger brother.⁷¹ (A major investor in Neil Bush's educational company, Ignite, is Boris Berezovsky.)

The US Contribution to the Afghan-Kosovo Drug Traffic

Much remains to be learned about Far West Ltd, its personnel and the American firm which co-founded it. Reportedly it was founded in 1998, and Surikov and Saidov were already directors of the company when they attended the meeting in Khashoggi's villa in July 1999.

I believe that the group at the meeting was more concerned with facilitating drug-trafficking than with strengthening the Kremlin. I believe that the attendees also discussed the Russian presence in Kosovo and the imminent increase in the flow of Afghan drugs through Kosovo.

That this flow is huge has been attested to by many observers. Russian sources estimate that from 1991 to 2003 the same group shipped to Western Europe up to 300 tons of heroin and sold it to wholesale buyers of Kosovo Albanian nationality. In the same period they sold up to 60 tons of heroin to Azeri and Roma (gypsy) wholesalers in the Volga and the Urals Federal Districts

of Russia. The group's total receipts for heroin in the period 1991 to 2003 are estimated to be US\$5 billion.⁷²

The chief narcobaron of the group is said to be Vladimir Filin, who is also the head of Far West. Like Surikov, Filin has been known to share his knowledge of drug-trafficking with the public.⁷³ And grounds have been alleged to suspect that his contacts with the CIA through drug-trafficking date back to Afghanistan in the 1980s.

It is clear that the Blair and Bush administrations did have drugs in mind when, in 2001, they developed a strategy for ousting the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Their plans focused chiefly on Ahmad Shah Massoud, overcoming the long-time resistance in Washington to supporting this known drug-trafficker.⁷⁴ Massoud, of course, was also the most successful guerrilla opponent of the Taliban.

A more naked example of a US drug ally was Haji Zaman in Jalalabad [as explained by Philip Smucker in *Al Qaeda's Great Escape*, 2004]:

When the Taliban claimed Jalalabad...Zaman had fled Afghanistan for a leisurely life in

*Dijon, France. Just a few years at the top of the heroin trade in Jalalabad had given "Mr Ten Percent" a ticket to just about any destination he could have chosen. In late September 2001, British and American officials, keen to build up an opposition core to take back the country from the Taliban, met with and persuaded Zaman to return to Afghanistan.*⁷⁵

According to Asian sources, such as the informed Indian observer B. Raman, Zaman's long-time Pakistani drug-trafficking partner, Haji Ayub Afridi, was also released from a Pakistani jail at this time, "reportedly at the request of the CIA" [<http://www.saag.org/papers5/paper489.html>].⁷⁶ Raman was outspoken about the US use of narcobarons to oust the Taliban. In 2002, citing the subsequent failure to curb opium production, he wrote:

There are disturbing reports from reliable sources in Afghanistan that this marked lack of success in the heroin front is due to the fact that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the

It is clear that the Blair and Bush administrations did have drugs in mind when, in 2001, they developed a strategy for ousting the Taliban in Afghanistan.



USA, which encouraged these heroin barons during the Afghan war of the 1980s in order to spread heroin-addiction amongst the Soviet troops, is now using them in its search for bin Laden and other surviving leaders of Al Qaeda, by taking advantage of their local knowledge and contacts. These Pakistani heroin barons and their Afghan lieutenants are reported to have played an important role in facilitating the induction of Hamid Karzai into the Pashtun areas to counter the Taliban in November, 2001. It is alleged that in return for the services rendered by them, the USA has turned a blind eye to their heroin refineries and reserves.⁷⁷

A third major narcobaron selected by the CIA, according to Raman, was Haji Abdul Qadeer:

...Haji Abdul Qadeer was the CIA's choice [in 2001] as the Governor of the Nangarhar province in which Jalalabad is located...

...during the first Afghan war against the Soviet troops in the 1980s, he played an active role under the control of the CIA and the Directorate-General for External Security (DGES), the French external intelligence agency, **in organising the heroin trail to the Soviet troops from the heroin refineries of Pakistan owned by Haji Ayub Afridi, the Pakistani narcotics baron, who was a prized operative of the CIA in the 1980s** [emphasis added]. Abdul Qadeer and Afridi became very close associates in running this drug trade with the blessings of the CIA. Amongst others who were associated with this trade were Haji Mohammed Zaman and Hazrat Ali...⁷⁸

If Raman is correct, therefore, the CIA not only blessed but directed the flow of drugs from Afridi, Zaman and Abdul Qadeer into the hands of Soviet officers like Vladimir Filin and Aleksei Likhvintsev.⁷⁹ It would appear that corruption was being used as a political tool to weaken and subvert the Soviet Union.

US Geostrategic Goals and Chechnya

In the 1980s, CIA Director William Casey used narcotics to achieve two goals: the immediate goal of weakening the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and the long-term goal of financing Islamist resistance to break up the Soviet Union.⁸⁰ According to the partisan but well-informed observer Yossef Bodansky, director of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, the US still pursues the goal of weakening and destabilising Russia. Writing in *Defense & Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy* (June–July 2000), he stated:

As if reliving the "good ol' days" of Afghanistan of the 1980s, Washington is once again seeking to support and empower the most virulent anti-Western Islamist forces. The US crossed the line in mid-December 1999, when US officials participated in a formal meeting in Azerbaijan in which specific programs for the training and equipping of mujahedin from the Caucasus, Central/South Asia and the Arab world were discussed and agreed upon. This meeting led to Washington's tacit encouragement of both Muslim allies (mainly Turkey, Jordan and Saudi Arabia) and US "private security companies" (of the type which did the Clinton Administration's dirty job in the Balkans while skirting and violating the international embargo the US formally supported) to assist the Chechens and their Islamist

allies to surge in the Spring of 2000 and sustain the ensuing jihad for a long time.

Washington's motivation is oil pipeline politics and the economy. Essentially, Washington is determined to deprive Russia of a viable pipeline route through spiraling violence and terrorism, the political fallout of media accusations of Russian war crimes. In the calculations of the Clinton Administration, a US-assisted escalation and expansion of the war in Chechnya should deliver the desired debilitation of Russia.

The Clinton Administration believes that the spiraling violence in the Caucasus will scare Western investors and oil buyers from making deals with Russia. Meanwhile, with the sudden US attempted rapprochement with Iran, the Clinton Administration is heralding the Azerbaijani southern route (with a little detour in Iran) as seemingly feasible. And so, in the Summer of 2000, the Clinton Administration keeps fanning the flames of the Islamist jihad in the Caucasus through covert assistance, tacit encouragement of allies to actively support the mujahedin, as well as the orchestrating of an intense media campaign against Russia and its conduct in Chechnya.⁸¹

As the US Department of State noted in 2005:

...the involvement of US firms in the development and export of Azerbaijani oil is key to our objectives of diversifying world oil supplies, providing a solid base for the regional economy, and promoting US energy security.⁸²

The Bush Administration committed an estimated \$1.5 billion to the Caspian basin area, including an \$11 million program to train a "pipeline protection battalion" for the special Georgian unit created to protect the Georgian section of the BTC (Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan) pipeline.⁸³

The MetaGroup's Geostrategic Goal: Maintaining the War of Terror

The fact that the United States will use drug-traffickers as geostrategic assets does not at all mean that Washington and the traffickers will necessarily have the same agendas. In theory at least, the contrary should be true. Although the United States may have used known traffickers like Zaman and Qadir to regain access to Afghanistan, its stated ultimate goal, and the one assumed by the mainstream media, was to reimpose its own kind of order. Whether the country is Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Colombia or Kosovo, America's national interest is said to be to install and then protect pipelines. And pipelines require peace and security.

The prime geostrategic goal of the drug traffic in Afghanistan and elsewhere is precisely to prevent peace and security from happening.⁸⁴ It is true that the international illicit drug industry, like the international oil industry, is polymorphous and flexible, relying on diversified sources and markets for its products in order to maintain its global dominance. But for the global drug traffic to prosper, there must always be key growing areas where violence is ongoing and state order does not prevail.

However, in speaking above of America's stated national interest, I do not assume that a US government will always represent that national interest. Something else has happened in recent decades: the growth of the drug trade to the point that it now represents a significant portion of national and international

It would appear that corruption was being used as a political tool to weaken and subvert the Soviet Union.

wealth. And it has to be said that the American free enterprise system, like every other dominant political system in a current nation with world pretensions, will tend above all to represent the interests of the wealthy.

Thus the Bush Administration's policies cannot be assumed to reflect the national goals of peace and security, as outlined above. On the contrary, its shocking underfunding of Afghanistan's recovery, like its complex and destabilising interventions in Georgia, suggest that it, as much as the drug traffic, hopes to utilise instability—as a pretext for maintaining unstable US bases in countries like Uzbekistan, whose people eventually will object more and more to them.

It is, I think, a matter of national priority to learn more about the American links to Far West Ltd, the group accused of staging the Russian 9/11. It is a matter of more than purely historic interest to learn if that group's Islamist and American connections could have supplied a meeting ground for staging the American 9/11 as well. For at present, America faces in Afghanistan what Russia faces in Chechnya: a war which is favourable to drug-trafficking but increasingly deleterious to national well-being.⁸⁵ The Bush Administration continues to use 9/11 to sell its Asian adventures to the American people. Meanwhile, elements profiting from the flow of Afghan drugs continue to grow stronger and more dangerous to the well-being of both countries.

Concluding Question: The MetaGroup and the United States Government

It seems clear that the meta-group, with its influential connections on at least three continents, was powerful enough to effect changes, through the Russian 9/11, in Russian history. The question arises as to whether they could similarly effect changes in American history as well.

As we have seen, Russian sources claim that the US Government has had access to the meta-group for such especially sensitive projects as the assassination of Abu al-Walid al-Hamadi. They claim the meta-group's involvement in a number of US-sponsored regime changes in Eastern Europe, from the overthrow of Ceausescu in Romania to the recent deposition of Shevardnadze in Georgia. The *Wall Street Journal* [November 24, 2003] attributed the latter to the work of "a raft of non-governmental organizations...supported by American and other Western foundations".⁸⁶ One of these was the Albert Einstein Institute (AEI), funded by both the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and the Soros foundations, which helped to create the dissident youth movement Kmara in Georgia. Audrius Butkevicius, the meta-group member now resident in Georgia, is said to be closely connected with the AEI.⁸⁷

Returning to a question raised earlier, it also seems possible that the US Government might contemplate using Hizb ut-Tahrir and the meta-group for political changes in Russia itself, even while combating the Islamism of al-Qaeda elsewhere. This would be far from the first time that the US Government had used drug-trafficking proxies as assets, and would do a lot to explain the role of the US in 2001 in restoring major drug traffickers to power in Afghanistan. Dubious figures like Khodorkovsky and Khashoggi have already shown their interest in such initiatives, and Western

business interests have shown their eagerness to work with these allies of the meta-group.

It is fitting to think of most US intelligence assets as chess pieces, moved at the whim of their controllers. That is, however, not an apt metaphor for the meta-group, which clearly has the resources to negotiate and to exert its own influence interactively upon the governments with which it works.

Since first hearing about the meta-group's role in the Russian 9/11, I have pondered the question of whether it could have played a similar role in the American 9/11 as well. At this point, I have to say that I have found no persuasive evidence that would prove the meta-group's involvement. The fact remains that two informed and credible witnesses, Sibell Edmonds and Indira Singh, have spoken independently of the importance of international drug-trafficking in the background of 9/11.

I said earlier that by suppressing awareness of the role of drug-trafficking in our society, we give drug-traffickers a *de facto* franchise to exert political influence without criticism or opposition. An example of this is the discussion of 9/11 in America, which usually fails to consider the meta-group among the list of possible suspects.

MetaGroups and Transpolitics

History has demonstrated, four or five times over, the dialectics of openness. This process determined the fates of the ancient city-states of Athens and Rome, and since the Renaissance we have seen it again with the empires of Spain, The Netherlands and Great Britain. An urban civil society that is free and open will generate wealth. As wealth increases, the society will expand its institutions beyond its borders. This is the story richly documented by Kevin Phillips in his book *Wealth and Democracy* (Broadway Books, 2002), a book that should be read in every American college and school. To the extent that wealth expands, these extra-societal institutions come to lie outside the transparency of domestic civil society. In effect, they become both powerful and

secret, and new elements of the state develop to interact with them on a secret level.⁸⁸

Within the state, secrecy trumps openness. There is a political sociology of secrecy: those with higher clearances participate in policy-making at a level where those without clearances are denied access. As long as external wealth continues to increase, so will the importance of secret policy-making. The result is the transition of what was once an open society, perhaps even a republic (as in the case of Athens, Rome and The Netherlands), into an empire. Institutions and relationships outside the bounds of civil society will tend to consolidate into what I call "meta-groups"—groups outside the state that have the wealth and *de facto* power to influence the policies of the state.

This has been particularly true since the so-called Reagan Revolution and the collapse of the Soviet Union. US bases have now appeared in previously unthinkable outposts like the former Soviet republics of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Georgia, but only after US oil majors had already secured multibillion-dollar contracts for oil exploration in the Transcaspien basin.

It is a matter of national priority to learn more about the American links to Far West Ltd, the group accused of staging the Russian 9/11.

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OBESITY

THE NEW WORLD EPIDEMIC

Controlling obesity and weight gain is not simply a matter of eating less and exercising more, but eating the right kinds of nutritious foods that are not compromised by modern agricultural methods and factory production processes.

by David Zeoli, ND, LAC
© June 2006

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The Dramatic Rise in Obesity and Related Diseases

The American documentary film *Super Size Me* follows the experiment of one young man who wished to find out what would happen if he ate fast food every day for one whole month.¹ We watch as Morgan Spurlock records his experience of eating McDonald's food three times per day for 30 days. As the story unfolds, we learn more and more about the growing obesity problem in the United States.²

Meanwhile, we are treated to a thorough investigation of the resulting physical, mental and emotional effects of eating too much fast food. As we probably could have guessed, Spurlock gets sick and puts on weight very quickly. What is surprising is that he gets fatter and sicker than even his team of physicians could have anticipated. This experiment in diet raises the important question: is it really fast-food consumption that is causing the current dramatic rise in obesity? And what is it exactly about the fast food that makes it so unhealthy for us? Are there other factors involved? These are pertinent questions for all of us because obesity isn't just an American problem any longer. It is spreading out around the world at an increasing rate. The current estimate is that there are one billion overweight adults in the world, and 300 million of these individuals are clinically obese.³

In the United States alone, the number of obese people has doubled over the past 20 to 25 years. The current estimate is that 30% of the entire US population is clinically obese and 65% of the entire US population is overweight.⁴ Since one of the biggest exports from the Western world is American culture, it is no wonder that our habits—and our health problems—are quickly dispersing around the globe. In other countries such as Russia, Germany and the Czech Republic, the adult obesity rates are between 23% and 26%.^{4a,4b} In Australia, roughly 20% of the entire adult population is obese.⁵ In the UK and Canada, the rate is closer to 15% of adults.⁶ And the numbers keep growing because there has also been a tremendous increase in the numbers of overweight and obese children. It is estimated that 22 million children in the United States alone under the age of five years old are clinically obese. This number is twice as much as the number in 1980. The rate for adolescents is even more alarming because it has tripled since 1980, going from 5% of all teenagers up to 16% right now.⁷

The World Health Organization is well aware of what it is now calling the "globesity" epidemic.⁸ It tells us that the many serious chronic diseases associated with obesity are costing the world billions of dollars in health-care costs and lost work hours. Obesity is second only to smoking as a leading cause of preventable disease. Obesity is a major risk factor in arteriosclerosis, diabetes and cancer—the diseases of modern industrialised society. The risk of heart attack, stroke and depression—not to mention the numerous non-fatal conditions including joint degeneration and gastritis—is far greater in the obese.

In the movie, we find that Spurlock clearly believes that the fast-food industry is the major contributor to this problem. He reiterates the current dogma about obesity, but we already know this story. First, he says we are eating way too much food, too many calories. Second, he says we are eating too much fat. Third, he states we are not exercising enough. We have heard these explanations over and over again. Are we just not getting it? Not trying hard enough? Or is the problem somewhere different?

Here is a list of the beliefs we collectively hold concerning obesity:

1. Obesity is the result of over-eating, of eating too many calories.

2. Obesity is the result of eating too much saturated fat. Eating fat—especially the fat from animal foods—makes you fat.
3. Obesity is the result of a lack of will power and a character weakness.
4. Obesity is a genetic trait, like brown eyes, and there's nothing you can do about it.
5. Obesity is caused by overindulgence, throwing caution to the wind, gluttony and lack of moral fibre.
6. Obesity is caused solely by lack of physical movement.

We have all suspected at one time or another that fast food and candy were not good for us. The percentage of Americans who frequent fast-food establishments on a regular basis is probably around 20%, yet the percentage of Americans who are overweight is closer to 65%. Clearly, the fast-food connection cannot be blamed for everything.

We have so much faith in our "meat and potatoes" diet, but we fail to acknowledge that even these foods are different than they once were. The meat has been harvested from sick animals and it is laced with hormones, antibiotics and other drugs. The quality of the fats and proteins in the meat has been radically altered due to the aberrant diet these animals have been raised on. The potatoes have been genetically modified and treated with harsh and persistent pesticides, synthetic fertilisers and other additives.

It used to be that the food one bought at the supermarket to bring home and cook was of far superior quality than the stuff you bought from fast-food restaurants. However, we can no longer make that assumption. We are comfortable blaming all of our health woes on junk food for many reasons. Perhaps we are in denial about the true state of our food supply.

In any case, the agriculture industry likes us to pin the blame on fast food because it takes the eyes of the public away from them. The sad fact is that the food you buy at McDonald's and the food you get from the supermarket is not as different as it once was.

On some level we feel like we have the situation currently under control. The government and health authorities have done their studies and made their recommendations. Things are going for them as planned. And yet the situation desperately calls for greater in-depth analysis and understanding. We need to look at obesity from a different perspective in order to change the way things are progressing. Our current approach is just not going to get the job done. At its roots, obesity is a symptom of a much bigger problem. Using a more holistic viewpoint like the one offered us by traditional systems of medicine could provide a deeper understanding of our predicament.

The Bucket Theory

One popular explanation of obesity is based on the "bucket theory". This hypothesis says that the human body is like a bucket: the food you put in fills the bucket, and the exercise you do empties the bucket. So, people who gain weight are just overfilling and under-emptying their buckets. The take-home message that has been stuffed down our throats is that we are eating way too much and exercising way too little. But there is so much more to it than that!

This bucket theory assumes that all calories can be treated

equally, that all have the same impact on health and disease. It neglects to take into account the differences between food produced in a healthy way and food produced in an unhealthy way. It fails to notice the dissimilarity between the particular qualities associated with each food category. It fails to take into consideration the actual needs of the human body. And most of all, it ignores all of the other complicating factors that contribute to obesity besides too much food and lack of exercise.

The bucket theory starts with the assumption that all of the normal body processes are intact and functioning properly in someone who turns obese, but this seems not to be the case. We need to let go of the idea that obesity is the result of normal physiological mechanisms. In order for the body to make the kind of morbid accumulations associated with obesity, it has to be in a different operating mode than normal. It is almost as if the body is in survival mode, and creates the obese body type as a last-ditch attempt at retaining life under unusually harsh circumstances which are both internal and external. Certainly there is a variety of functional disturbances, hormonal and metabolic abnormalities and pathogenic influences involved. My suspicion is that you could not take a normal, healthy person and make them into an obese individual just by overeating and not exercising.⁹

We have always been eating fat in our foods—that hasn't changed. The thing that *has* changed is the *type* of fat that we are eating.

Other possible factors involved in obesity include multiple nutrient deficiencies, dysfunctional organ systems, imbalanced endocrine and hormonal activity, addiction, depression, exhaustion and feelings of psychological and spiritual emptiness. Simply telling an obese person that he or she needs to eat less and exercise more is just too simple-minded to be an effective strategy to combat this complex condition. And that is just where we are right now. It is necessary to take a full assessment of the situation and consider all of the aspects with

which we are confronted. People become obese for a variety of reasons or, rather, as a result of multiple factors.

It is also true that we do need to take a closer look at exactly what we are eating: which foods we are eating more of and which we are eating less of. Is eating fat really making us fat? Humans have been eating lots of fat for a long time. Some cultures get 70% of their calories from fat, and that has been true for generation after generation for thousands of years.¹⁰ Why should we be having so much of a problem with it now? We have always been eating fat in our foods—that hasn't changed. The thing that *has* changed is the *type* of fat that we are eating. For example, butterfat consumption has decreased steadily over the years. Similarly, coconut oil consumption has decreased precipitously compared with just a few decades ago. Meanwhile, the consumption of all vegetable oils has skyrocketed¹¹—no doubt due to the fact that these kinds of oils (especially hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated oils) are the main ingredient in many of the prepackaged foods that we buy at the supermarket. Another dubious ingredient which is often found alongside vegetable oil is high-fructose corn syrup. We are now consuming more of these two food ingredients than ever before.

My experiences in treating obese people in an "alternative" clinical practice suggest that the physiognomy of obesity is a far more complicated scenario than simply excess caloric intake and

insufficient exercise. Examination of actual people has shown me that there is not just an excess of tissues but there are also great deficiencies present. In Western science we would equate these kinds of deficiencies with missing vitamins, minerals and enzymes and exhaustion of the endocrine glands. In clinical practice, it is all too common to see patients present with an excessive accumulation of bodily debris and a concomitant deficiency of the proper materials on which good health is predicated. The process by which this transformation takes place has certain features that coincide with the American way of life and our Western ideologies. It is inherent in our food choices, in the way we take care of our bodies, in the way we deal with our emotions, work, childbearing and so on. We haven't had a truly health-conscious approach to life in many generations.

The problem is not simply accumulated fat. We must consider the fact that the processed and prepared foods we buy at the supermarket are not as easily digested as their natural counterparts. As a result, there is much that is absorbed from the intestines and into the bloodstream that cannot be assimilated through normal body functioning. Obesity is a combination of the accumulation of these indigestible materials, coupled with depleted body energies, depleted endocrine reserves and depleted digestive capacity. The end result is a loss of complexity in the system; the body turns into a garbage bag filled with things it neither needs nor is capable of breaking down or eliminating. Externally, we can see that things are clearly different. We don't even call it fat anymore because we know it is something else. Cellulite, "junk in the trunk", "mud flaps", "spare tyre", "beer belly": even in the common vernacular we know that it is something different than just regular fat deposits. The fat itself in an obese person actually has a different chemistry than fat found in a healthy person.

Every cell in the body of every person (whether obese or not) has some fat in it. The cellular membrane which composes the barrier that defines each cell is called the phospholipid bilayer, and it is made of fat—roughly 50% saturated and 50% unsaturated fat in a typical blood cell, for instance. That means there is a sheet of fat molecules that make up the surface of every cell. Like a balloon holds air, the cellular membrane contains the contents of a cell. Every cell in the body is made this way. Much activity happens at the cellular membrane. Hormones and other molecules bind to the membrane and cause the cell to engage in all essential life functions. Everything that the cell needs in order to operate and survive must pass through it. The cell membrane must act as a "selective barrier", meaning that it selectively allows certain molecules to go through while preventing the passage of unwanted materials. These membranes need a constant supply of new fat molecules to replace the ones that are lost through various processes. There must be a proper mix available of saturated and unsaturated fats of good quality in order to ensure the correct functioning of these intricate structures. If the proper fat molecules are not present in the

bloodstream, the body will insert whatever fat molecules are available.

In obese people, the cellular membranes contain a distorted mixture of fat molecules.¹² An immediate result is that the cells are no longer able to function properly. The membrane can no longer operate as a selective barrier and the cell lets in whatever is floating around in the bloodstream. As the fat cells grow larger, they allow even more of the improper lipids to accumulate. Healthy components such as the enzyme lipase, which breaks down fat molecules, are notably absent. Fat in itself can be used as a storage area for fat-soluble substances, and many of the environmental toxins to which we are exposed are fat-soluble: they are "oily" as opposed to "watery". As a result, the fat tissue accumulates this toxic debris and stores it indefinitely. The fat is capable of synthesising its own potentially toxic substances: oestrogen, for example, is

produced by fat tissues in both men and women. While a healthy balance of oestrogen is essential for good health, when there is too much in the body it can cause all kinds of difficulties. Oestrogen promotes the growth and build-up of tissues, so it helps to keep fat in the body. Also, it is a potential tumour growth factor.

Corruption of the Food Supply

We cannot blame fast food for all our woes. Foods made entirely of factory-fabricated concoctions are the norm in today's marketplace. Laboratory-generated ingredients such as partially hydrogenated and hydrogenated oils, which many studies have linked to a variety of chronic degenerative diseases such as diabetes, cancer and obesity, are in nearly all packaged foods.¹³ Preservatives, fillers and sweeteners are added to our foods. It is difficult to find items in a supermarket that do not contain sugar or high-fructose corn syrup. Genetically modified organisms are commonplace, with an estimated 70% of all processed foods containing them.

Apparently the agriculture industry feels no remorse for its endless manipulations of our food supply, since it is planning more of the same in the future. As long as we remain unaware and unconcerned with these acts, we will be sold the kinds of products that result in the biggest profits for the industry. It seems that the well-being of the consumer is given little consideration beyond the marketing strategies that attempt to pass off this junk as healthy.

Many individuals who buy and consume food from the agriculture industry seem unaware of how the food is actually produced. It is no coincidence that much of this information is kept hidden from public scrutiny.

Mass-produced animals of the agriculture industry are housed inside cruelly cramped environments. They eat whatever is cheapest to feed them, including "recycled" animal carcasses. They are given drugs, hormones and antibiotics just so they won't die before they grow large enough to eat. All of these unnatural processes and stresses change the fabric of the meat in many

If the proper fat molecules are not present in the bloodstream, the body will insert whatever fat molecules are available.

important ways. It changes the balance of fatty acids to an unhealthy overabundance of omega-6 and an absence of omega-3. It adds many toxins and chemical burdens. Animals fed waste products, corn and soybeans are not healthy. Cows normally eat grass and hay, and when they are fed an abnormal diet this drastically changes the quality of the meat so that the fat content and proteins are no longer as health-promoting as they once were.

Interest in locally grown foods produced with the consumer in mind has been increasing steadily over the years, so you may not need to search very far to find them. Many cities have "farmers' markets" where local producers sell food directly to the public. Food co-operatives which support the health of the local economy are once again gaining popularity as an alternative to mainstream supermarkets. Additionally, there are many organic and biodynamic farms open to the public. Several websites are available to assist people in finding local retailers. The Weston A. Price Foundation has been helping people for decades by providing much information on healthy food and where to locate it (check it out at <http://www.westonaprice.org> or <http://www.realmilk.com>). Another interesting website that offers information on locating healthful food providers is <http://www.themeatrix.com>; be sure to watch the video clip. A wonderful cookbook that contains excellent information on diet and nutrition is *Nourishing Traditions* by Sally Fallon with Mary Enig, PhD. These references are provided here for the benefit of those wishing to pursue a more health-giving approach to diet.

The current trend in treating obesity at the level of the masses is to place full responsibility for the problem on those who are most affected by it. In some respects, this is a legitimate approach. If people stopped buying the kinds of foods that are sold in supermarkets, then the food industry would stop producing them and supermarkets would stop selling them.

Whether food producers have any obligation at all to consumers is beyond the scope of this article.

Additionally, whether media advertising has any effect on our buying habits, as many have suggested, and therefore on obesity trends is not covered here. Even though we are all exposed to the socialisation processes that lead us to a life of mass-market consumerism, each of us has the capacity to change any of these behaviours at any time. Perhaps the first step is to become cognisant of what has been going on.

Psycho-Spiritual Aspects of Obesity

One of the biggest psychological components of obesity is addiction. People use food for many, many different reasons: as entertainment, comfort, a substitute for sex, or whatever. When such behaviours are taken to an extreme, they foster complacency and result in a failure to take risks and try something different. There is a spiritual emptiness that is associated with obesity where people try to fulfil themselves in

different ways with food. It seems that each of us must contend with a variety of internal stresses and conflicts that require introspection to achieve resolution. But as long as we are self-medicated and anaesthetised on a poor diet, it is going to be difficult to get in touch with these deeper underlying issues. The nature of addiction is to keep us in a state where we are constantly coping with pain caused by something deep and unaddressed in us. Until we start to give up on the addiction a little bit, we never get to see what is truly causing the emptiness and pain.

The addiction to food can become almost secondary to the habitual indulging in self-defeating thoughts and feelings. When we fill ourselves with bad feelings like low self-esteem, helplessness and hopelessness, these do not improve the outcome of the situation. For some individuals, living in a depressed state contributes to obesity via addiction to comforting foods. This observation is based on the idea that unhappy people eat more to make themselves feel better. Another possibility is that the depressed state in itself contributes directly to obesity by decreasing the efficiency of bodily functions. Wallowing in unpleasant emotions creates stagnation and blockage in the organ systems, impairing their ability to function.

In order to overcome addiction, we must live as whole people. All of the different aspects of life must be engaged and enjoyed. We must be present, at least to some extent, in all our own processes—physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. When we neglect any of these parts of ourselves, degeneration is inevitable. In our modern society, we tend to acknowledge only the physical aspects of our bodies. Anything concerning the mind or emotions is relegated to the brain and higher nervous system. Yet there is a connection within each organ between these different levels. Many traditional systems of medicine recognise the intelligence which is present in the tissues of each part of the body. Within each organ there are emotions and thinking patterns. These

energies are just as much an inseparable part of the organ as the physical substance. And the energetic portions can become just as diseased and dysfunctional. Our dietary decision-making has effects not only on the physical tissues, but on our mental and emotional health as well.

When we connect psycho-spiritual disorders such as depression with obesity, we sometimes make the assumption that the problem lies only with eating behaviours. However, oriental medical philosophy links the emotions directly to the proper functioning of the organ systems. According to this way of thinking, weight gain could actually be the direct result of feeling depressed, regardless of any changes in food consumption. Experiencing certain habitual emotions and thoughts can have the effect of decreasing the functional efficiency of the internal organs. It is not just the feelings that can get depressed, but all the different parts of the body as well. Disease is inevitable when the organs are non-functional due to the incapacitating effects of improper diet combined with the dampening effect of

If people stopped buying the kinds of foods that are sold in supermarkets, then the food industry would stop producing them and supermarkets would stop selling them.

depressed emotions. When there are emotional traumas, repressed emotions or emotional excesses, these things have negative consequences for the internal organs as well. The physical tissues and the emotional and mental spheres of consciousness are much more tightly connected than previously imagined.

Much emphasis is placed on the need for physical activity. While it is true that humans need to move around and get some exercise in order to be healthy, physical activity isn't enough. There needs to be movement on the mental and emotional levels as well. Humans need to think and feel, too, in order to be whole, complete beings. Our modern-day lifestyles not only squelch our capacity to perform physical exercise, but also our thinking and feeling abilities. Our demanding schedules leave us little room to think for ourselves. It seems that, instead of giving ourselves the space we need to feel and release our emotions, we easily get trapped and mired in them with solutions aimed at coping with the dysfunction rather than ever really resolving it.

Overcoming Obesity

As we have seen in this article, obesity is a condition caused by multiple factors. We have painted a picture that diverges considerably from the accepted myths and misconceptions. In summary:

1. Obesity is a condition involving malnourishment and major nutrient deficiencies.
2. Obesity arises from dysfunction in the normal operating patterns of the digestive system due to long-term poor diet.

3. Obesity is supported by an imbalanced endocrine system which is non-functioning due to ingestion of processed vegetable oils, sugar, exogenous hormones and environmental toxins.

4. Obesity has its roots in addiction, depression and stagnation of an individual's mental and emotional outlook.

5. Obesity is associated with the avoidance of the foods that would actually be beneficial, such as healthy animal fats and protein.

The commonly prescribed solution of "eating less and exercising more" typically fails because it does not address any of these key issues.

If we are going to overcome obesity as a public health disorder, each person must take back his or her power of choice and decide again on how to live. We each have the opportunity many times every day to choose a life of health

or a life of sickness.

Taking responsibility for this power and utilising it to its full extent is what we desperately require.

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The addiction to food can become almost secondary to the habitual indulging in self-defeating thoughts and feelings.

Endnotes

1. *Super Size Me* (2004), directed by Morgan Spurlock, distributed by Showtime Independent Films and others.
2. Obesity is defined as having a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or over, and having a BMI of 25 or over is the strict definition of being overweight. To determine your BMI, measure your weight in kilograms and divide this number by the square of your height measured in metres; i.e., $BMI = \text{weight (kg)} / \text{height (m)}^2$.
3. WHO, "Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health: Obesity and Overweight", <http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/publications/facts/obesity/en/>.
4. CDC/NCHS, "Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity Among Adults: United States", 1999–2002, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/obese/obse99.htm>.
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7. CDC/NCHS, "Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity Among Children and Adolescents: United States, 1999–2002", <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/overwght99.htm>.
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9. There are two points to consider on this issue. First, Morgan Spurlock himself returned to a healthy bodyweight after discontinuing his McDonald's diet. Second, there is a remote tribe in Africa that has a kind of "fat contest" where participants attempt to gain more weight than anyone else over a short period of time. During the contest, each participant

lives within a small circle of about a five-foot radius and doesn't move from there until the end. Friends bring the individual large quantities of milk with which they gorge themselves. Predictably, the individuals grow to massive proportions. But after the contest, all individuals return to their normal daily routine and eventually shrink back to a healthy size.

10. Fallon, Sally with Enig, Mary G., *Nourishing Traditions*, New Trends Publishing, Inc., Washington, DC, 2001 (revised 2nd edition), p. 7.
11. Putnam, Judy and Gerrior, Shirley, "Trends in the US Food Supply, 1970–97", USDA/ERS, <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aib750/aib750g.pdf>.
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ARACHNOIDITIS

A TOXIC CHEMICAL TRAGEDY

A devastating disease called arachnoiditis is caused by the corrosive action of certain dyes that have been used in spinal X-ray imaging, yet the sufferers are receiving no special treatment or compensation.

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Web of deception

Imagine that you have just got out of bed and turned on the TV. You hear that over 100,000 fellow Australians have been struck down with a mystery virus or infection. They are so devastatingly affected that many are in extreme agony, others want to end their life and the rest are crippled.

This is not just another bad-luck medical story. This is a story of deliberate deception by a pharmaceutical drug manufacturer that has sacrificed people's health in the name of corporate profits, with the ongoing approval of the Australian Federal Government. This is an intensely sad human-interest story of a medical chemical that went horribly wrong and whose effects have been hushed up by both the Federal Government which approved it and the pharmaceutical company which manufactured it.

This corrosive chemical is an oil-based acid called Iophendylate. It has been used as an imaging dye that is injected into the spinal canal before spinal X-rays (myelograms) to increase the contrast. It has been sold under brand names such as Pantopaque and Myodil. These dyes have been manufactured and sold by several chemical companies. Pantopaque was manufactured by Lafayette Pharmacal Company, later acquired by Alcon Laboratories, using materials supplied by the Eastman Kodak Company—materials originally designed for use in photographic processing. Pantopaque was approved for experimental use only in Australia between 1974 and 1978. Myodil is a copy of Pantopaque, made by the Glaxo Company between 1945 and 1988 and supplied in the UK and Australia, among other countries. According to a study commissioned by the New Zealand Ministry of Health and released in February 2002, from the 1940s to 1980s there were approximately one million oil myelograms performed each year throughout the world. However, with the advent of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), myelography with these kinds of chemical dyes is not performed as frequently.

Iophendylate contains hydrochloric and sulphuric acid, potassium permanganate (raw iodine) and benzene (a cancer-causing substance) in an oil base. It causes an excruciating condition known as Arachnoiditis as it migrates throughout the body, causing massive allergic reactions and destroying tissues, nerves and organs, slowly causing death. When the chemical causes the nerves and spinal canal to "fuse" into a conglomerate of mixed-up tissues, nerves and spinal cord, this is called Adhesive Arachnoiditis, and it's the worst and cruellest form of the condition.

Most people have not heard of arachnoiditis—such has been the paranoia of the government and the medical profession. It is one of Australia's greatest shames that patients, with government approval, were injected with this corrosive chemical. The drug Myodil was approved by the Australian Federal Government in 1970 and was used over a period of 19 years from 1970 to 1989.

Can you imagine what this drug did to the patients' bodies? It corroded the spinal cord, nerves and tissues and migrated into the brain and other organs, causing excruciating, ballistic, nuclear hell (as many have described it), paralysis and even death for these innocent victims. Those who died were lucky; the others lived on, wheelchair-bound in intense pain or bedridden and crippled in agony.

The name "arachnoiditis" arises from the sub-arachnoidal space at the bottom of the spine. If you look at a diagram of the human skeleton, you will see at the back of the pelvis four holes on either side where nerves from the legs go up into the spinal canal. It looks like the eight legs of a spider, hence "arachnoid"; and "-itis" is a suffix meaning "inflammation". So arachnoiditis is the result of body tissues and nerves being eaten away by this acid, leaving

scarring or complete destruction of the nerves and tissues. This may occur anywhere in the body as the oil-based acid migrates. These symptoms vary greatly in different people, making arachnoiditis difficult to diagnose, with patients often misdiagnosed as having chronic fatigue syndrome, asthma, motor neurone disease or multiple sclerosis. Sadly, very few people and doctors understand this problem that affects an estimated 100,000 Australians.

When we look at others suffering pain we are sympathetic, but we cannot understand the pain level they suffer. One mother said to me that arachnoiditis was like giving birth to her six children all at once, 24 hours a day for the last 25 years. If you are a mother who has had a difficult time giving birth, you will have some understanding of the pain. Others describe it as a ballistic, nuclear, burning hell; you can be burning and sweating in winter and freezing in summer, trembling and shaking so much that you lose control.

The problem originated with the approval of iophendylate for use in Australia, without adequate testing, provision of test data or safety guarantee required from the manufacturer. The Commonwealth Health Department approved the drug on no proven safety basis.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) only ever licensed the iophendylate drug Pantopaque for one use, registering it on 22 February 1944. The chemical formula Pantopaque was thus introduced in 1944, but it was banned in Sweden in 1948, in the United States in 1957 and in the UK by 1990. It was never licensed anywhere else. The manufacturers manipulated this product into hospital use throughout the world on product liability statements which constituted *fraud*, affecting millions of people worldwide. These statements stated the chemical is safe for human use, but hundreds of medical papers now show it is not.

Iophendylate is corrosive: it dissolves paint, linoleum, rubber, glue, cork tiles and polystyrene coffee cups. Injecting it into people's spinal canals where it corrodes the nerves and spinal cord and wreaks havoc throughout the body and brain is stupidity straight out of a Nazi horror movie. Test your imagination: you are being very slowly cut in half from the bottom to the top with a carpenter's power saw—if that makes you feel a little uneasy and squeamish, you're getting close to what many arachnoiditis sufferers go through 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Iophendylate came to be used in Australia under what is termed a "grandfathered" agreement, i.e., it is being used in three or more other countries, so it was unlicensed. It was imported into Australia under the Pantopaque brand name between 1974 and 1978, but was approved for *experimental use only*, licensed on a restricted basis to four hospitals. The importer of Pantopaque was licensed to import 150 units; in contravention of the import permit, 13,500 units were imported into Australia.

According to independent researcher Derek Morrison, in June 1978 the Australian Therapeutic Goods Board advised that the company which imported and distributed Pantopaque (allegedly Mr Ernie Hughes) "was involved in unauthorised distribution of the product".

All experiments have procedural requirements to be followed. Where are the signed informed-consent forms of the victims? Where is the experimental documentation? Where are the pharmacology and pathology test results and data sheets? If no

pharmacology tests were carried out and if no experimental data were recorded according to medical research procedures, then the manufacturer and importer of this chemical at least committed fraud, for they received financial gain by deception. As there is no statute of limitations on fraud, this fraud must be investigated by the Australian Federal Police and charges laid *now*. The manufacturer must be held accountable for its deceitful and misleading statements on product safety. The law ought to be applied equally without fear or favour or discrimination. Where was the government overview and control of the "experimental use only" proviso?

Adverse reactions ignored in Australia

Following are some landmark findings on the serious adverse effects of iophendolic acid and its component ingredients (for references, see http://www.arachnoiditis.info/content/pantopaque/saraha_pantopaque.doc):

1928: Odin, Rundstrom and Lindblom (Sweden) published a paper on their findings of acute reaction to iodised oils.

1932: The American Medical Association issued a warning about the long-term risks of introduction of foreign oily compounds into the spinal fluid for imaging purposes.

1938: Mettier and Leake also described adverse reactions to Lipiodol (iodised oil).

1940: Neurologist Eric Oldberg (US) wrote of similar findings.

1930s–40s: Neuroradiologists in Stockholm, working with the famous neurosurgeon Olivecrona, saw patients from all over the world who had previously undergone oil-based myelography and had sustained arachnoiditis as a result; they also had residual dye in the spine and head. It appears that as early as 1935, a decision *not* to use oil-based contrast

media was taken by leading Swedish neuroradiologists. Pre-licence studies of the new dye, ethyl iodophenylundecylate (iophendylate), demonstrated chemical meningitis similar to that seen by various authors. Strain and Warren had already conducted animal studies on the new dye, which had originally been synthesised by Plati in 1937–38. These clearly demonstrated that the compound was not absorbed by the body but remained permanently encysted within the spinal column and could thus trigger inflammatory reaction and fibrosis.

1941: Markovich, Walker and Jessico studied the effect of iodised oil on the meninges and published their findings in the prestigious journal *JAMA*. They stated that "after the injection of iodised oil...the oil becomes rapidly encysted by proliferation of the arachnoid membrane".

1952: Erickson et al. published a case report of a fatality after Pantopaque myelography, due to obstructive hydrocephalus.

1953: Schurr et al. described meningeal irritation due to Pantopaque.

1956: An important paper by Davies was published which detailed findings in 124 patients at surgery and up to a year after myelography; 60% showed immediate reaction and 12% developed "chronic adhesive meningitis".

1960: Whilst Taren published a report of raised intracranial pressure and multiple cranial nerve palsies after Pantopaque myelography, labelling was approved by the FDA in America.

1962: Mason and Raaf reported a case of obliteration of the subarachnoid space by Pantopaque-induced arachnoiditis.

Arachnoiditis patients are often misdiagnosed as having chronic fatigue syndrome, asthma, motor neurone disease or multiple sclerosis.

These are but a few of the pre-approval scientific medical papers published. Hundreds of other medical-scientific reports of extremely serious adverse (and fatal) reactions to this chemical were published prior to the Australian Federal Government's approval of the chemical for use in Australia. The evidence was so voluminous and overwhelming at the time that the Department of Health cannot claim ignorance of the dangerous consequences of the chemical's use. The Government has a legal and moral obligation to give full recognition to these suffering victims and the dignity of acknowledging their special needs.

The NSW Health Department's Radiology Advisory Committee in its 4 July 1995 report acknowledged that "Myodil is a cause of arachnoiditis, a condition that may result in chronic severe and debilitating pain".

In relation to the dangers apparent in using the chemical, Professor F. J. Palmer, Director of Diagnostic Radiology at the Prince Henry and Prince of Wales hospitals, wrote about Myodil in his December 1994 report: "By the mid-1960s, anyone practising myelography should have been aware of the association of Myodil/Pantopaque [Iophendylate] with arachnoiditis."

Symptoms and diagnosis of arachnoiditis

A great number of medical professionals do not know how to diagnose arachnoiditis, and, in fact, some even deny that arachnoiditis exists. Lack of information prevents the physician from making the correct diagnosis of this disease.

Even the physicians who administer the myelographic procedure do not know all the symptoms and effects of arachnoiditis. When questioned by patients, they may become frustrated and angry. Package inserts which list side effects and toxicity are supplied by the manufacturers and distributed mainly to hospitals and radiology groups. Physicians who treat the problems associated with arachnoiditis are not provided information on the devastating long-term consequences brought on by this contrast medium. Due to time constraints and the fact that much of the data is published in specialist literature, the average physician is poorly informed about the link between iophendolic acid and arachnoiditis.

The disease is often labelled as failed back surgery syndrome (FBSS), lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue syndrome, stiff-man syndrome and degenerative disc disease, just to mention a few. Millions of people all over the world who have arachnoiditis are unaware of the cause of their suffering. Proper treatment cannot be obtained because diagnostic criteria cited in medical reports are not readily shared with the medical professionals who treat people with the disease.

Failure to recognise the insidious nature of the disease is a major complication, especially when the symptoms may occur immediately or take years to develop, can be inconsistent and can manifest themselves in many ways. This often results in misdiagnosis with chronic fatigue syndrome, asthma, motor neurone disease or multiple sclerosis.

The symptoms often include impotence in males, limitation of

spinal movement, weakness in the legs and a need for regular analgesia. Headache, bladder and bowel dysfunction are common. Burning pain is the significant feature, with one study reporting 96% of patients with lower back pain and 98% with leg pain. *No other disease causes this burning sensation*, which is also reported in the insteps, inner aspects of the knees and in the lumbosacroiliac area. However, arachnoiditis can go undiagnosed for years, and even then may only be diagnosed by excluding all other causes. Arachnoiditis sufferers are often unable to work; the average life-span is reduced by 12 years (although another study stated "by up to 20 years").

Liability of manufacturers

Manufacturers should be financially accountable for all costs incurred by the victims. The Australian Government should be funding litigation against the manufacturers to recover the millions of dollars' worth of medical expenses that have accrued over the last 30 years and will be incurred in the future.

The current compensation system requires the compulsory reimbursement of medical costs before any compensation to the victim is paid. If you win a medical or injury compensation payment, the Australian Health Commission holds your award at its leisure until it searches its files and deducts all medical costs associated with this injury—and then pays you the residual. This often means that the victim receives *no* compensation after the legal fees have been paid. This is bureaucratic nonsense, as it results in lawyers not taking cases they can win because only the

medical expenses get paid. These disabled victims are left destitute and unable to fund any attempt for compensation, so they rely on solicitors who do *pro bono* work. Recovery of medical and hospital expenses has been a high government priority and is enforced by specific legislation, so why are chemical companies exempt from paying for the damage their chemicals cause?

Why doesn't the Australian Government hold the same priority with the pharmaceutical companies for costs incurred by the Health Commission? Where is the legislation to recover

expenses against these pharmaceutical companies for the injuries sustained from their deadly chemicals which are often used illegally—or is this just another torture for the victim and their families to endure, another ongoing discrimination to bear?

Taxpayers via the Health Commission (Medicare) have to maintain the massive expense of maintaining the lives of these suffering, debilitated victims. Arachnoiditis sufferers often experience the double-whammy of family break-up and they live a life worse than the average dog. You may think this is being overly descriptive, but not so. It is very blunt reality: just talk to some of the disabled people, as I have. Where is the equality of one law for all?

Manufacturers' reported side effects

Regarding Myodil, the manufacturer Glaxo's package insert stated: "Acute side effects reported by the manufacturers include headache, backache, neck stiffness, nausea, vomiting, fever and the more serious effect of allergy. An acute aseptic meningitis has been

Iophendylate is corrosive: it dissolves paint, linoleum, rubber, glue, cork tiles and polystyrene coffee cups.

Injecting it into people's spinal canals where it corrodes the nerves and spinal cord and wreaks havoc throughout the body and brain is stupidity...

reported to occur in approximately 0.05% of Myodil cases which is why it is recommended that the agent be removed from the spinal column after examination." Such removal was *never* done in Australia.

The *Australian Adverse Drug Reactions Bulletin* noted the relationship between the retention of Myodil and adhesive arachnoiditis as far back as February 1975.

Arachnoidal reaction in the brain is most prominent around the brain stem, which is significant due to the close proximity to the lower cranial nerves. As explained by Dr I. H. J. Bourne (now deceased) in "Lumbo-Sacral Adhesive Arachnoiditis: A Review", (*Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* 1990; 83: 262–265, 1990):

"The relentless and progressive pain syndrome of arachnoiditis is taxing to the patient's morale. In many instances doctors, relatives and friends fail to realise that the pain can be as bad as terminal cancer, without the prospect of death to end the suffering. Well-meaning enquiries as to whether there is any improvement, with the implication that there must inevitably be improvement 'since it is not cancer', are distressing to the patient. There are sympathetic doctors, relatives and friends who expect the patient to be brave, stoical, and cheerful. In the end the patient yearns for less exhortation and more compassion. Compassion is an important consequence of comprehension of the existence and nature of arachnoiditis."

Arachnoiditis pathophysiology

According to Jennifer Owen in her thesis for her Master of Science (Optomology) (University of NSW, June 1998):

"Cranial palsies and late visual effects may arise independently or follow the acute reaction. The contrast agent injected into the lower spine reaches the cranium, as Myodil has been noted on the dental X-rays of patients with chronic headaches and jaw pain. Even after removal of the dye, there is always a small amount of residual dye that can reach the brain.

"Immediate reactions, which are either allergic or vascular, include allergic reactions of the conjunctiva and lids, flickering light and photophobia. Late effects that involve the posterior visual pathways include reduced vision, red-green colour defects, scotomas and cortical blindness.

"Arachnoiditis is characterised by the formation of granulomatous tissue and nerve root adhesions within the leptomeningeal sac. Since the arachnoid and subarachnoid spaces are void of blood vessels, it is expected that the inflammatory reaction arises in the enriched vascularised pia and dura mater. The pia mater is easily traumatised as it is very fragile and sensitive to both chemical and physical injury, and the dura can participate in the production of both dura-leptomeningeal adhesions even without its own direct injury.

"Upon application of a contrast agent, the delicate structure of the arachnoid tissue is invaded by macrophages and covered with a fibrin-like substance. The ensuing inflammation adheres the pia to the dura, obliterating the subarachnoid space. Globules of the

contrast agent are often enmeshed in the dense scar tissue. The entangled nerve roots hypovasculate and become progressively atrophic."

Lumbosacral adhesive arachnoiditis is a particularly cruel disease because of the nature of the pain syndrome associated with it, yet its pathophysiology is well understood and is no mystery. The type of pain is uniquely incapacitating, and dolorologists have created the term "regional complex pain disorder" (RCPD) to describe it. (Source: Derek Morrison)

This writer has seen X-ray evidence and a report dated 7 September 1982 (by D. Jones, radiologist at Murwillumbah Hospital, NSW) of Myodil widely dispersed in spinal canals and in "the basal cisterns of the skull", as well as MRI evidence dated 28 March 2006 (from Dr G. Ioannou of South Coast Radiology) of Myodil reaching the brain, "located in the left middle cranial fossa".

Adhesive arachnoiditis is not a notifiable disease in most countries and, as such, there is no obligation on the doctors to report cases.

Adverse reaction rates

In June 1998, the US National Institutes of Health published "new" findings in relation to the "cause and effect" of iophendylate, listing 80 medical conditions based on reported adverse reactions, many of which can be considered life threatening. Commenting on this, a UK arachnoiditis group noted: "Even at this early stage...it's important to list these, so a record of such 'official, reported' related medical conditions is available to yourself and the wider community, especially sufferers and their loved ones."

It's important to place it on the record that until now the medical profession throughout the world has stated that chemically induced adhesive arachnoiditis develops in "less than 1% of patients" who have previously undergone a myelography with iophendylate.

Furthermore, "it's a very rare phenomena [*sic*]". This statement is not only misleading, it's a lie. In fact, the most current statistical data published shows that the figure is 82.3 per cent. This figure is sourced from the US Food and Drug Administration, the body that

originally licensed iophendylate (as Pantopaque).

The FDA's Spontaneous Reporting System, maintained by the Division of Epidemiology and Surveillance, noted on 12 June 1998 that between 1991 and 1995 in the USA, 335 adverse reactions were reported with this chemical. Of these 335 people with adverse reactions, 275 developed chemically induced adhesive arachnoiditis—a reported 82.3% relationship (actually, 82.1%), not the "less than 1% of patients" as currently being touted in the courts by medical bodies.

UK medical researcher S. P. Cunliffe, writing to doctors in 1997, asked: "So why have doctors to date said that adhesive arachnoiditis is a rare condition? The answer to that is very simple. Adhesive arachnoiditis is not a notifiable disease in most countries and, as such, there is no obligation on the doctors to report cases or collect any data recording the number of sufferers. Nor are they reporting adhesive arachnoiditis as a side effect of any drugs used."

Commenting on the situation in Australia, Cunliffe said: "It's time the Australian Government instructed doctors who see and treat those suffering this disease to report these adverse reactions;

furthermore, getting these same doctors communicating with their colleagues, so when [a patient presents] with apparent related neurological symptoms the patient is sent for an MRI without contrast or Gadolinium. A sufferer of arachnoiditis should *never* be exposed to any further contrast mediums of any kind."

Cunliffe continued: "To correctly diagnose arachnoiditis, it is critical that the MRI machine is *not* set on the current settings that use water-based contrast mediums, but set for the *positive* for this oil-based contrast medium (chemical) that was used on the patient many years earlier. Until this is done, a 'false' report of 'limited severity' will continue. Once an MRI has been done using these 'old' settings, a patient must then have a full Nerve Conduction Test of all limbs including VERs.

"Adhesive arachnoiditis is not just a dirty word, as some medical professionals describe it. Arachnoiditis is a disease which destroys the lives of many human beings and their families. We ask doctors to help us find an effective form of treatment, or even find a cure for this disease, and do your level best to prevent others from contracting this 'horrific' debilitating condition."

An estimated 100,000 or more Australians are suffering from this cruel, incurable condition (although a senior government medical officer told one arachnoiditis sufferer in Victoria that the figure for victims of the "blue dye" is more likely to be 350,000). Most annoying to the sufferers of arachnoiditis is that the symptoms have all too often been dismissed as "psychosomatic". However, the contemplation of suicide by these victims is all too frequent and is *real*: death is preferable to a lifetime of agony.

Medicine is practised on a "risk versus benefit" basis, so how can it be carried out if the doctor is deprived of appropriate information or is ignorant of the risks? How can the patient give "informed consent"? One doctor told me that if you had Myodil dropped into your eyes, you would lose your sight.

X-ray contrast agents

The following quote is from US radiologist and neurological specialist Dr Ken Giles. It is taken from a newsletter produced by researcher Derek Morrison (bracketed sections are added for the reader's understanding):

"[Arachnoiditis] is but one of the many lesions caused by X-ray contrast agents, as a glance into the publication *Martindale's Pharmacopoeia* will demonstrate. Indeed, the arachnoiditis caused by oils is quite different from water-soluble agents. The oil Myodil [and Pantopaque] causes adhesive arachnoiditis as the result of the oil globules, particularly those which lodge in the nerve root pockets for long periods. The oil is slowly eliminated at the rate of 1 mL/year [this is currently being disputed, as X-rays show a 65 mm column of the oil-based acid still in the spine and globules in the brain 34 years later]. During this time fibroblasts, in a futile attempt to seal off the irritant, secrete collagen which invades and destroys the nerve roots: the result is paralysis of the muscles served by the spinal nerve, which [currently] is untreatable. On the other hand, the later-developed water-soluble agents did not (it was said) cause arachnoiditis. We now know that this is not so.

"If the agent is injected at a hypertonic concentration [hypertonic means "a solution that has a greater osmotic pressure than another solution", in this case cerebrospinal fluid], the osmotic shock

induced can cause arachnoiditis. However, the agent intermingles with the cerebrospinal fluid and in a few days is eliminated in the urine. However, extensive diffuse scarring results but without adhesion to the nerve roots. There is no paralysis but extensive, sometimes all-body pain is permanently induced, particularly by Metrizamide [known also as Amipaque for those retired professors of radiology in Australia who have "selective memory"]. It is known that the water-soluble agents enter the central nervous system, particularly the cerebrum, prior to elimination. The consequences are an increased rate of nerve cell death accompanied by a plethora of neurological deficits from psychosis [meaning one of a group of mental disorders that feature loss of contact with reality] to grand mal [major epileptic attack with loss of consciousness]."

Dr Giles further stated: "...it seems that because Metrizamide does not contain sugar, when it enters the central nervous system it begins to destroy the sugars that are present there. That means that the brain becomes starved of oxygen, and so cell damage occurs, as does epilepsy."

Even today, none of the oil-based myelography substances has ever been officially acknowledged to be toxic.

It is noteworthy that even today, none of the oil-based myelography substances has ever been officially acknowledged to be toxic. Because Myodil dissolves rubber, glues, linoleum, paint, cork tiles and some plastics, surely this must have made some of the medicos question its suitability? How many brain cells are needed for a doctor to realise that any foreign, corrosive, oil-based chemical injected into the spine must cause unbelievable problems?

This is the body's main nerve centre.

Derek Morrison has made available a 40-page history from 1938 to 2000 of adverse findings (with 13 pages of reference footnotes) against Pantopaque. The research documents how the drug caused arachnoiditis and it provides evidence of neurotoxicity, cysts, associated syrinx (fluid-filled cavity in the spinal cord) resulting in progressive spastic paraparesis (paraplegia), chronic focal seizure, encephalopathy causing post-operative convulsions, blindness, granulomatous meningitis in the brain and spinal cord, etc.

In Australia the manufacturers and importers of Iophendylate misled everybody with their product safety statements, acting without guilt and indiscriminately destroying people's lives in the name of profit. So why hasn't the government done anything to help these victims? Why hasn't it sued these companies for the millions of dollars in medical costs incurred by Medicare—that you, the taxpayer have paid for?

Myelography and Myodil in Australia

Concerning Myodil, it should be borne in mind that the manufacturer:

- 1) conspired not to supply complete and forthright animal and clinical data regarding the risks of injection of Myodil into the subarachnoid space for myelography to the Australian Department of Health and the medical community;
- 2) failed to provide adequate and truthful information to the Department of Health, the medical community and the Australian public in official documents, labelling, product promotions, and written and oral communications while downplaying the severity of adverse events and risks;

3) knowingly marketed a product to the Australian public via prescription by physicians while not providing those physicians with adequate information regarding potential risks and benefits;

4) knowingly marketed a product that could be dangerous to physicians when it was aware that Myodil is toxic to animals and humans when injected into the subarachnoid space and is associated with granulomatous meningitis, severe progressive obliterative arachnoiditis, adhesive arachnoiditis, paralysis, seizures, bladder and bowel dysfunction, coma and even death;

d) placed corporate profits from sales of Myodil over legal responsibilities and obligations to ensure the safety of its product for the Australian public (such irresponsible and dangerous actions by the manufacturer prior to 1970 directly contributed to the pain and suffering of the Australian public exposed to Myodil and directly contributed to the Australian healthcare burden via Medicare).

As for the drug itself:

1) Myodil is not water soluble and remains primarily unabsorbed in the body;

2) Myodil histologically has been shown to trigger a severe granulomatous foreign body inflammatory reaction;

3) Myodil injection into the subarachnoid space for myelography has been acutely associated with producing symptoms of aseptic and chemical meningitis, fever, shock, respiratory arrest, coma and death.

4) Myodil myelography has been associated with severe, chronic adhesive and obliterative arachnoiditis, progressive neurological deficit, paralysis, focal and grand mal seizures, blindness, cauda equina syndrome, obstructive hydrocephalus, chronic pain, shock, coma and death.

5) Myodil injection carries both significant and severe acute and long-term risks for the patient beyond the risks of routine lumbar puncture.

6) Myodil studies on human hypersensitisation have never been conducted.

The cost of fraud

Why are chemical companies exempt from premeditated fraud, costing our Health Department billions of dollars of taxpayers' money? Why haven't the chemical companies and the drug manufacturers and importers been charged for the cruel suffering that their chemical has inflicted upon so many innocent people? Why haven't they been charged with fraud over their dishonest and false product liability statements and for breach of their "experimental use only" approval criterion, knowingly allowing a dangerous substance to be administered in a medical procedure?

Historical data show that the manufacturers were well aware of the dangers associated with this insidious chemical, so their continued marketing and supply constitutes a premeditated, deliberate act of assault upon the people of Australia.

If an individual deliberately caused any one of these injuries, he or she would be charged, tried and imprisoned; there would be great outrage and compensation to the victims. What are we going to do about these insidious chemical companies that knew more than 30 years ago that their chemical caused arachnoiditis?

Recognition is given to those suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, asthma, cerebral palsy, motor neurone disease, multiple

sclerosis and diabetes, but myelogram-induced arachnoiditis sufferers are ignored. Why?

The Hon. Jenny George, MHR, Member for Throsby, moved a private member's bill in Federal Parliament on 16 September 2002, calling for a full independent inquiry. The government defeated it and had it thrown out. Why? Because the Australian Federal Government approved and supported this insidious chemical attack upon its own citizens and has deliberately ignored the victims' plight ever since, while protecting the chemical companies and refusing to prosecute them for their chemical war on medical patients.

The disrespectful manner in which the Australian Government has treated these unfortunate people, whose only crime was not knowing the right questions to ask before a "minimally invasive" myelogram or epidural steroid injection was performed, has been desperately sad to see.

A request for a parliamentary inquiry from every reader is the only way there will ever be recognition and justice for these victims.

Would you please give this your support and write to your Federal Member of Parliament and tell him or her that you refuse to vote for them if they do not promptly hold an independent inquiry.

It is time to show the same level of concern for our fellow Australians that we showed for the tsunami victims.

This is the story that must be told. Please tell this story to everyone and help get recognition for the victims.

Acknowledgements

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- Dr Sarah Smith from the UK's National Organisation for Healthy Backs. See her 2002 article "How the Dye was Cast: Shedding Light on a Dark Industry" at http://www.arachnoiditis.info/content/pantopaque/saraha_pantopaque.doc.

About the Author:

Gil May is a farmer's son from Won Wron, Gippsland, Victoria, with varied experience in engineering-related areas as well as business management and industrial relations. Thirty-four years ago, working as a power station senior operator, he suffered a back injury and was given a myelogram without any advice on potential side effects. Unable to obtain answers about his symptoms, he conducted research and discovered that his X-rays showed residual traces of Myodil. He has since been communicating with other sufferers of the chemical's dire side effects.

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Why haven't the chemical companies and the drug manufacturers and importers been charged for the cruel suffering that their chemical has inflicted upon so many innocent people?

INDUCED AFTER-DEATH COMMUNICATION

An information processing technique developed by US clinical psychologist Dr Allan Botkin allows people to access and overcome grief and to communicate telepathically with departed souls on "the other side".

by Michael E. Tymn © 2006

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A revolutionary new therapy for treating grief

Basically, there are two explanations for a revolutionary new form of grief therapy discovered by Dr Allan Botkin, a clinical psychologist practising in Libertyville, Illinois. Either the grieving patients are hallucinating or they are in touch with "the dead".

The therapy, called Induced After-Death Communication (IADC), results in patients seeing and communicating with deceased loved ones and occasionally with deceased enemies. IADC is an offshoot of EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) therapy, which was discovered in 1987 by Dr Francine Shapiro of California. As explained on her website, Shapiro was walking in the park one day when she realised that eye movements seemed to decrease the negative emotions associated with her own distressing memories. Some experimentation resulted in the development of the procedure she initially called Eye Movement Desensitization (EMD).

After the patient's emotional issues are fully analysed and a treatment plan developed, the patient and therapist focus on distressing events that apparently have led to the emotional disturbance. The patient is instructed to focus on a particular image or negative thought while simultaneously moving his or her eyes back and forth following the therapist's fingers, which are moved about in the client's field of vision for 20 to 30 seconds or longer. The patient is told to let the mind go blank and take note of whatever thought, image or memory develops. The patient is then asked to focus on a positive belief identified at the beginning of the session and to focus further on the emotionally disturbing event. After several sets of eye movements, patients generally report increased confidence in the positive belief and elimination of the emotional disturbance.

In IADC therapy, the person who is grieving the death of someone is asked to focus directly on the sadness during the eye movements. The typical IADC involves the patient seeing a deceased person, and that deceased person telling him or her that everything is okay and not to grieve. In a number of cases, the deceased has related information previously unknown to the patient. The therapy works with people of all beliefs, including atheists and sceptics. The end result is that the majority of patients overcome their grief.

Botkin is reasonably certain that the many patients who have benefited from the therapy are not dreaming, imagining, fantasising or otherwise hallucinating, but he prefers not to speculate as to whether patients are actually in touch with the spirit world. Whatever the explanation, according to Botkin it works at least 70 per cent of the time.

"As a psychologist who is primarily interested in healing people who suffer so profoundly, I have taken the strategy not to engage in arguments about beliefs," he says in explaining his position. "Believers and sceptics have been waging this battle for some time. I believe that if I take a side, and get placed in one camp, it will be more difficult for me to get help to those who need it."

Moreover, Botkin points out that his neutral position allows the patient to interpret the experience without being influenced by the therapist's beliefs.

Even though Botkin discovered IADC in 1995, his employment as a staff psychologist with the Department of Veteran Affairs until three years ago prevented him from actively promoting it among his professional peers and bringing it to the attention of the public. The accepted grief therapy for many years has been to extinguish emotional ties with deceased loved ones—i.e., they are dead and gone, and so forget them. IADC therapy, however, complements a slowly emerging approach with an opposite view: one of developing healthy continuing bonds with the deceased. As that approach flies in the face

of materialistic science—which has indoctrinated us with the belief that life is simply a march toward annihilation and nothingness—it is being ignored or resisted by many therapists.

"It's still very new, but it's starting to explode now," says Botkin of IADC therapy.

He mentions that his book *Induced After-Death Communication*, co-authored with R. Craig Hogan, PhD, was released in 2005 and is in its second printing now, along with the fact that television is beginning to show an interest. He had just completed an HBO documentary at the time of his interview for this *NEXUS* article and will be appearing on *Good Morning America* sometime soon.

After receiving his Doctor of Psychology degree from Baylor University in 1983, Botkin went to work at a veterans' hospital in the Chicago area. Over the next 20 years, he specialised in treating combat veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and *Desert Storm* who were suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a condition known until the late 1970s as "shell shock" or "combat fatigue". The condition arises from experiencing or witnessing the terrors and horrors of war. In many cases, the effects are long-lasting. Sometimes the memories are buried in the subconscious and detrimentally affect the personality years later in ways that are not always clearly linked to the battlefield experiences.

For the first dozen or so years of his practice, Botkin was often frustrated by limited results from "exposure therapy", which was then the prevailing method of treatment. As Botkin explains it, the patients were repeatedly exposed to reminders of their traumatic experiences in a safe, supportive environment, in the hope that as a result their emotional responses would decrease in intensity.

More positive results came after Botkin was trained in EMDR during the early 1990s. Whereas it often took years to see changes in patients under conventional psychotherapy, Botkin began to see dramatic changes in a single session with EMDR. He found it especially effective in healing grief.

According to Botkin, most grieving patients experience three basic emotions: guilt, anger and sadness. He discovered that the guilt and anger served only to protect the patient from the deep sadness, and so he began encouraging patients to go directly to the core sadness, thereby bypassing the guilt and anger. He also found that patients responded better when they closed their eyes briefly after a set of eye movements. By addressing the sadness, the guilt and anger disappeared.

Experiences with IADC therapy

Botkin accidentally discovered IADC during a session with a patient to whom, for privacy purposes, he gives the pseudonym "Sam". While a combat soldier in Vietnam, Sam had befriended a 10-year-old orphaned Vietnamese girl named Le. In fact, he had decided to adopt Le and bring her home. One day, while Sam and other soldiers were helping Le and other orphaned children board a truck to take them to an orphanage, they came under enemy attack. When Sam discovered Le's lifeless body in the mud behind the

truck, he was devastated and the grief remained with him right up to that 1995 session with Botkin.

During the EMDR, Sam saw Le as a beautiful woman with long black hair in a white gown, surrounded in a radiant light. Le spoke to him and thanked him for taking care of her before her death. Sam was ecstatic. He was convinced that he had just communicated with Le and that he had felt her arms around him.

Initially, Botkin assumed that Sam had hallucinated; he was concerned that Sam had compromised his ability to distinguish between reality and fantasy. But after similar experiences reported by several other patients, Botkin decided to experiment.

His first intentionally induced ADC was with a patient named Gary, whose daughter, Julie, had died at age thirteen. Because she had been severely oxygen deprived at birth, Julie had never developed mental abilities beyond those of a six-month-old child. After suffering a heart attack and being rushed to hospital, she was placed on life support. As she later showed some signs of being able to breathe on her own, she was taken off the respirator. She struggled to breathe, and died in Gary's arms.

"Tears rolled down Gary's cheeks as he told me his story," Botkin recalls. "I explained my new procedure to him and asked him if he wanted to give it a try. He said he was willing if I thought it might help, but he was convinced it wouldn't work for him because he was an atheist and didn't believe in such things."

After Botkin took him through the entire procedure, Gary closed his eyes. "When he opened his eyes, he had a look of amazement," Botkin continues the story. "He then said, 'I saw my daughter. She was playing happily in a garden alive with rich and radiant bright colours. She looked healthy and seemed to move around without the physical problems she had when alive. She looked at me and I could feel her love for me.' We then talked about his experience. Gary was convinced that his daughter was still alive, although in

Whereas it often took years to see changes in patients under conventional psychotherapy, Botkin began to see dramatic changes in a single session with EMDR.

a very different place."

But Gary's look of amazement then shifted to one of sadness. When Botkin asked him what was wrong, Gary replied that he still felt sad because he missed his daughter. Botkin then administered another set of eye movements and asked him to keep that thought in mind. Gary closed his eyes and sat quietly for a few moments. "When Gary opened his eyes, he was smiling," Botkin recounts. "He said, 'I was in the garden again and I could see Julie looking at me. She said to me, 'I'm still with you, Daddy'.'" Gary told Botkin that Julie couldn't talk when she was alive. He left the session feeling happy and reconnected to his daughter.

A year later, Botkin contacted Gary, who informed him that he still felt reconnected with his daughter. Gary's new belief was that "people don't really die; they just take on a different form and live in a different place, which is very beautiful".

A Vietnam veteran volunteered to tell of his experience with IADC for this article, although he prefers to remain anonymous. We'll call him "Mark". As a helicopter gunship pilot, Mark killed many people during his 18 months in Vietnam, but the confrontation that bothered him the most involved four boats filled

with Vietnamese soldiers. Unmarked and without flags, the boats had trespassed into a military canal. Mark and the four other gunships under his command attacked the boats and "blew them out of the water". He recalls seeing bodies flying through the air. Two weeks later, he was informed that they were friendly troops. "It stays in your mind and really weighs on you," Mark laments, adding that he was shot down seven times and wounded twice.

In 2002, Mark sought treatment for PTSD at a veterans' hospital. When the therapist explained the IADC procedure to him and asked him if he'd like to try it, he was more than willing. After the eye movements were administered, Mark focused on the boat mishap.

"What happened then is that I saw a formation of Vietnamese coming at me," Mark relates, the memory still very vivid in his mind. "What was interesting is that they were in a Russian formation, not a US formation. Two of the commanders stepped forward and began talking to me in Vietnamese." Mark didn't understand them until another eye movement was administered. They continued speaking in Vietnamese, but Mark somehow telepathically knew what they were saying. "They said that they understood that I did what I had to do and they had no grudge against me, that they are in a better place, and not to worry about it. Then they marched off. It was really cool and a big load off my shoulders."

At another IADC session, Mark saw a woman holding his first son, who had died as an infant in 1978. As his focus was on the boy, he didn't immediately recognise the woman as his deceased mother.

In that session the child did not speak, but in subsequent sessions the boy appeared again, first as a teenager and then as a young adult. "My son says to me, 'Don't worry, Dad, I'm okay. I'm going to see you soon.' I didn't know what to make of that, if I'm going to die soon or what, but it was very soothing."

Mark also reviewed one of his helicopter crashes, including the pain and the intensity of the pain. He struggles to explain the images. "The quality and clarity of the images are much greater than in dreams. They are absolutely three-dimensional and they stay with you."

You have to experience it to know what it's like. It's not like hypnosis. It'll spook you, but it is really something. The main thing is that it gives you closure, and life has more meaning after you have experienced these things. There is a sense of continuity. It's very comforting."

SLOW ACCEPTANCE OF IADC THERAPY

You'd think that something with such profound implications as Induced After-Death Communication would receive widespread attention from the mental health field as well as from the mainstream media and the public in general. Even if it falls a little short of absolute proof, the evidence strongly suggests that grieving patients are in touch with the deceased during IADCs. What could possibly be more earthshaking and newsworthy than that?

But acceptance has been slow, no doubt because communication with the dead is a phenomenon that exceeds the "boggle threshold" of most people, especially those who have been programmed to believe that everything must meet strict scientific criteria before it is seriously considered as truth. The term *boggle threshold* was coined by Renée Haynes, a British psychical researcher and author, to define the point at which we are unwilling to accept something as fact and allow scepticism to take over.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, some distinguished scientists thoroughly investigated the phenomenon of mediumship. They uncovered some fraud, but eventually came to the conclusion that "the dead" were speaking through the true mediums. In spite of their high standings in the scientific community, these researchers came under attack by their colleagues, who believed they had all been duped. Sir William Crookes, a distinguished British chemist and physicist, was one of those lambasted by his colleagues. Crookes responded by saying, "I never said it was possible; I only said it was true."

Any open-minded person taking the time to examine closely the research done by Crookes, Sir William Barrett, Dr Richard Hodgson, Sir Oliver Lodge, Dr James H. Hyslop and others will realise that there is a preponderance of evidence—if not evidence beyond reasonable doubt—for the survival of consciousness at death and, concomitantly, for a spirit world in which spirits dwell at various levels of advancement. Dr Alfred Russel Wallace, co-originator with Charles Darwin of the theory of evolution by natural selection, said that the evidence for spirit communication is as great as the evidence supporting other areas of science—including, apparently, evolution.

More recently, mainstream science has ignored evidence which strongly suggests that the near-death experience and electronic voice phenomena relate to an afterlife. The sceptics often point out that these phenomena can't be replicated, and therefore they conclude that they are unworthy of scientific examination.

"What it comes down to is that so much of it cannot be controlled or measured in a scientific way," says R. Craig Hogan, PhD, co-author with Allan L. Botkin, PsyD, of *Induced After-Death Communication* (Hampton Roads, 2005). "As a result, it [IADC] hasn't been given much attention."

As Hogan sees it, the people who resist it the most are stuck in a mechanistic paradigm in which the physical world is fundamental. He traces it back to the early 19th century and the "Age of Reason", when scientists proclaimed that the only knowledge of value came from control and measurement, which only scientists could understand. "People simply accepted that," Hogan states. "After all, the common folk had believed up to that point that knowledge belonged only to the Church, so they really had no ownership of it anyway. The inner person, the Church taught, was sinful, depraved, naïve and given to influence by the Devil. When science told people that the inner person was also prone to misperception, superstition and childlike ignorance of the facts of the universe, they just nodded in agreement."

The media have contributed to the problem, Hogan believes. "They're always looking for confrontation, the medium against the sceptic," he says. "And so there is no resolution."

While apparently convinced that the IADC involves actual contact with the spirit world, Hogan explains that the therapist must take a neutral position, leaving the interpretation up to the patient. "The therapist's role isn't to judge the source of the experience, or any part of the patient's belief system for that matter," he offers. "I think any therapist frames the discussion in terms with which the patient is comfortable."

But Hogan feels that at some point in time, truth-seekers must forget about the scientific fundamentalists. "We need to stop trying to fit our methods and study into the narrow paradigm of things that can be controlled and measured," he asserts. "We shouldn't bow to the demands of those people who insist on control and measurement. After all, the vast majority of reality is not in that realm."

The focus of IADC therapy is on overcoming grief, but Hogan sees something much bigger coming from it. "The therapy is valuable because it alleviates grief, but that is much less important than what it will lead to," he suggests. "AI [Botkin] has discovered sparks of electricity, but lighting up whole cities will be the important result."

— Michael E. Tynn

Ivan Rupert, another veteran, was bothered for many years by a memory of carnage in Vietnam. As a combat photographer, he was called upon early one morning to take photos of a Vietnamese bus that had been blown up. "There were bodies and body parts all over the place," he recalls, "but the one that really stuck in my mind was that of a young pregnant woman. You could see the baby and umbilical cord connecting them."

The scene came back to Rupert over and over again in his dreams for many years until undergoing IADC therapy with Botkin. What especially bothered him was that at the time he was more intent on getting some good photos than feeling bad about what he was witnessing. During the IADC, the Vietnamese woman communicated with him. "She told me she was in a much better place and helped me understand that I was not the monster I thought I was. She said she didn't blame me for any of it." Rupert can't say for sure whether the woman spoke in Vietnamese or in English. "It was sort of mind to mind, heart to heart," he explains, adding that he no longer has awful dreams relating to that scene.

There is no doubt in Rupert's mind that he was actually communicating with the Vietnamese woman. "I was very sceptical when it was initially explained to me," he says. "It sounded like a lot of mumbo-jumbo, hocus-pocus, but it was the real thing. I'm certain that I was not hallucinating and I was not hypnotised. I wish the VA [Veterans Administration] would get on board with this and offer it. It would give a lot of peace to many veterans."

Testimony from other IADC therapists

Since entering private practice, Botkin has been teaching the IADC technique to other therapists. One of them, Laura Winds, from Bellingham, Washington, says she has seen dramatic changes in patients undergoing IADC. "What's really affirming to me is the sense of peace they leave with," she offers. Recalling an IADC in which a client saw her deceased husband, who had committed suicide by shooting himself, she recounts the client's reaction: "Weird! Weird! Jim is standing there, standing in the doorway." Jim went on to tell his widow that she should not grieve.

Another patient, whose two-year-old son had been murdered by her boyfriend, saw her son during the IADC and was able to overcome much of her grief. Prior to the IADC session, the woman was very sceptical about an afterlife, but she is now certain that there *is* one and that some day she will see her son again.

Winds estimates that she has used IADC therapy with 20 to 25 clients, and all but three have experienced full or partial healing. "You can really feel the sense of love and peace that comes with the healing," she says.

Dr Kathy Parker, a therapist from Roselle, Illinois, estimates she has used IADC therapy on 50 to 60 patients, with about an 80 per cent success rate. One of the most dramatic sessions involved a woman who had been a government official in an African country and had witnessed her aunt step on a land mine, with body parts flying in all directions. The aunt appeared in the IADC, smiling

and telling her niece that she will always be with her. "It's absolutely amazing the level of healing that comes with it," says Parker. "There's a real mystery about it, but it seems very real to me and it seems real to my patients."

Hania Stromberg, a therapist from Albuquerque, New Mexico, has conducted around 30 IADC sessions, and only three of these she would consider as failures. "They didn't really want to apply themselves," she explains. "I guess their fears got in the way, even though they made the initial decision to give it a try."

Stromberg laments the fact that many grieving people are not availing themselves of this dynamic therapy. "There are many people I know for whom it would be so appropriate, and I would imagine they would jump at it, but they don't. Mainstream thought is just not really open to it. In general, people do not believe that the dead are still around and have an impact on us. I have attempted to interest some of my therapist friends, but I get only silence from them when I bring it up. The scientific mind is very closed when it comes to this type of thing."

Stromberg apparently has clairvoyant and clairaudient abilities, and so she has been able to share in some of the experiences. In one such shared experience, a client was grieving the death of her mother and felt much guilt about not having fulfilled certain obligations. As she was administering the eye movement, Stromberg felt a "presence" entering the room and then saw a woman in colourful dress and high heels. The woman, the client's deceased mother, addressed the client by a special name of endearment and began discussing problems the client was having. After the session, Stromberg compared her notes with what the client related and all the details matched: the colourful dress, the high heels, the special term of endearment, the subject of the conversation.

Stromberg has never thought of herself as having any mediumistic gifts and had never been particularly interested in such things prior to these shared experiences. "I am very sensitive in that way, but I have always shied away from people who have such

experiences," she says. "It never really appealed to me."

When there is very personal information coming through to the client, Stromberg does not hear it. "I am not privy to that and I do not pick up on it." Like Botkin, Stromberg takes a neutral position relative to what is happening, leaving it up to the client's interpretation.

IADCs are not hallucinations

Botkin states that the EMDR/IADC process does not involve hypnosis. "Hypnosis induces the patient into a relaxed and focused state of mind," he explains. "EMDR, on the other hand, increases information processing in the brain." He likens it to a movie projector, with the projector slowing down during hypnosis and speeding up during EMDR.

He also discounts the claim that IADCs are hallucinations. "The most compelling evidence is that all people who have had IADCs

"Hypnosis induces the patient into a relaxed and focused state of mind," he explains.

"EMDR, on the other hand, increases information processing in the brain."

Continued on page 78

LONG-DELAY ECHOES A Mysterious Radio Phenomenon

by Frank Simonsen © 2006

Experiments in the 1920s

An electromagnetic anomaly called the "long-delay echo" (LDE) was first noticed nearly 80 years ago. It was originally documented in the 3 November 1928 edition of the scientific journal *Nature* by physicist Carl Störmer, in response to a letter sent to him by Norwegian radio engineer Jørgen Hals:

"...at the end of the summer 1927, I repeatedly heard signals from the Dutch short-wave transmitting station PCJJ (Eindhoven). At the same time as I heard the telegraph signals I also heard echoes. I heard the usual echo, which goes around the earth with an interval of about one-seventh second, as well as a weaker echo about 3 seconds after the principal signal had gone. When the principal signal was especially strong, I suppose that the amplitude for the last echo 3 seconds after, lay between one-tenth and one-twentieth of the principal signal in strength. From where this echo comes I can not say for the present. I will only herewith confirm that I really heard this echo."

At the time, the PCJJ station had some of the most powerful short-wave transmitters in the world. These transmitters were used to broadcast to The Netherlands' far-flung colonies around the world. They were so powerful that the signals were received with clarity and regularity in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). In those days, there was much less man-made interference and congestion in the short-wave bands than there is today, so it was easier to receive signals from 10,000 kilometres or more away. This is not to say that this can't be done today; it can be done quite easily, and the receivers of today are far more sophisticated than they were in 1927.

Carl Störmer, the physicist to whom the letter was addressed, teamed up with researcher Balthasar van der Pol at Philips Research Laboratories at Eindhoven in The Netherlands. In September 1928 they started experiments of their own to verify

the findings of Jørgen Hals. Using the high-power transmitters at their disposal, they radiated "call signs" at 30-second intervals on the night of 11 October 1928 on 31.4 metres or 9,554 kilohertz. The results they got indicated delays of between three and 15 seconds. This gave validity to the observations of Jørgen Hals.

In a telegram that was sent back to Störmer and reproduced in his submission to *Nature*, van der Pol noted: "Last night special emission gave echoes here varying between 3 and 15 seconds. 50 per cent of echoes heard after 8 seconds."

At the end of his studies of the phenomenon, Störmer published his findings in August 1929 and attributed the cause of the LDE phenomenon to be "auroral in nature".

In May 1929, France sent an expedition to French Indo-China (now Vietnam) to study an eclipse of the Sun. G. Talon, captain of the vessel *L'Inconstant*, and J. B. Galle were given orders specifically to study the effect of the solar eclipse on radio propagation, particularly the LDE phenomenon. They used a 500-watt transmitter for this purpose. With another vessel, *La Pérouse*, they set sail from Saigon on 2 May, and on 5 May they conducted test transmissions and detected long-delay echoes. On 6 and 7 May they

c o u l d n ' t
operate due to
i n c l e m e n t
weather, but on
8 May they
were on the air
again and were
transmitting for
the first 10
minutes of
every half-
hour. On 9
May, the day of
the eclipse,
they sent
signals for
nearly six
hours with one
20-minute
break. The

following day they again sent signals for the first 10 minutes of every half-hour. These signals were sent in Morse code for every 30 seconds on 25 metres or 12,000 kilohertz wavelength. Special considerations were made to make it easier to identify and time the signals.

Apparently, large numbers of echoes were heard. These were divided into two groups: weak echoes, about 1/100th the original signal strength, and strong ones, about one-third to one-fifth the intensity of the original signal strength. There was no noticeable relationship between signal strength and delay time.

In their report, Galle and Talon said the echoes stopped altogether during the totality of the eclipse, but in fact the echoes paused for three-and-a-half minutes before the eclipse became total and began again halfway through it. Delay times ranged from one second to 30 seconds, although two 31-second echoes and one of 32 seconds were heard between 3:40 and 4:00 o'clock on the day of the eclipse. One- and two-second echoes might seem impossible for a probe in the Moon's orbit unless there were some highly unusual circumstances. (Some were attributing the LDE phenomenon to alien space probes.)

At 2:19:29 on the day of the eclipse, the operator "forgot" to send the required dots,



but five- and 10-second echoes were heard anyway. From this, Galle and Talon came to the conclusion that some echoes might have a delay of 40 seconds or more: either their musical tone sequence let them down, or they were unable to believe evidence that the probe was anticipating their signals as it transmitted its "replies". The overall intensity of the echoes decreased as the Sun approached the horizon, as we would expect if there were a probe in the Moon equilateral position descending from the meridian. A diagram they published gave an idea of the complexity of the echo patterns and the difficulty of transcribing them.

Postwar research into LDEs

Interest in the LDE phenomenon seemed to die out by the mid-1930s, but new studies were undertaken after the war in 1947 to 1949. Researchers Budden and Yates, of Cambridge University in England, set up transmitters of 1 kW and 30 kW, transmitting on frequencies of 13,400 and 20,600 kilohertz (22.38 and 14.56 metres). An antenna was set up so as to emit the radio waves in a vertical direction. It was hoped that a certain number of the radio signals would travel out into space and hit "ionised clouds", which were theorised by the researchers as being sent out by the Sun towards Earth. These "ionised clouds" would eventually be called the "solar wind", as we know it today.

Budden and Yates published the results of their experiments in 1952. During the time of their research, they sent out approximately 27,000 test signals. They detected "round-the-world echoes", but no LDE phenomenon. However, the fact that they detected "round-the-world echoes" indicates that even though their antenna arrangement was designed to send the radio waves in a vertical direction, they were detecting ionospheric reflections—just like what we detect in long-distance short-wave reception. Budden and Yates came to the conclusion that they had picked frequencies too high and that the arrangement of the transmitting antenna had too high an angle of radiation—meaning that they were transmitting in an upwards direction as opposed to horizontal in relation to the surface of the Earth.

After some scientists recorded signal reflections while doing research into plasma (electrically charged gas) in the 1960s, there was renewed interest in the LDE phenomenon.

Research was done at Stanford University between 1967 and 1971. It had been theorised that some of the effects observed in the laboratory could possibly be realised in the plasma of the ionosphere. However, this had not yet been borne out by actual research. So, a 20 kW transmitter was set up to broadcast at between 5,000 and 25,000 kilohertz. The transmitting antenna or aerial was of the "log-periodic" type, which looks somewhat like a

conventional television antenna but works on a different principle.

The Stanford equipment was modified a number of times. The researchers thought they had detected their first LDEs in October 1968, but had to discount these noises as interference from inside the radio equipment.

In January and February 1970, they detected two long-delay echoes at 10,620 and 11,020 kilohertz, with time delays of 15 and 20 seconds. By 1971, they had detected 31 LDEs.

In all this research, it was determined that the automated means that had been set up to record the LDE pulses had been less effective than simply using the human ear. After this, scientists were much more cautious in their LDE research and much more wary of accepting the research of others.

In 1985, scientists critically re-evaluated the Stanford research on the LDE phenomenon. Some further studies were undertaken and LDEs were detected, but these measurements were discounted. The earlier Stanford research was dismissed as being related to "technical side effects". Data put forth by Canadian researcher Goodacre was also treated with some apprehension.

Amateur radio experiments

Radio amateurs such as Goodacre have long provided the most comprehensive data on the LDE phenomenon.

Goodacre detected eight possible LDE effects and eventually wrote them up in a scientific paper. In 1978 and 1979 he had been doing his experiments in the vicinity of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, using frequencies of around 28,000 kilohertz (10-metre amateur band), a highly directional antenna and a 400-watt transmitter. Goodacre sent out pulses using an automatic Morse code-sending device. He was transmitting radio waves in the direction of the western horizon when communications in the 10-metre band became poor. (Note that the 10-metre amateur band is normally only useful for long-distance communications when there is continuous daylight between the stations communicating with each other.) In other directions, communications were already impossible on the 10-metre band.

Goodacre noted the frequencies of interest in the band at the same time as these were recorded on tape. He did this so that the only findings that were given serious evaluation were those which had already been suspected of being LDEs. This avoided any mistakes due to the "copying effect" of magnetic tapes. Finally, Goodacre studied the tape recordings using an oscilloscope.

Signals which are called "short wave"—or, in amateur radio terminology, high frequency or HF—don't normally escape the ionosphere (the charged layers in the upper atmosphere that reflect radio signals). These short-wave signals, which are from 2,000 to 30,000 kilohertz, bounce



in multiple hops from ionosphere to ground and back again, and can be received around the world. Science tells us that these signals eventually attenuate and die out.

Some ham radio operators like to bounce their signals off the Moon (which is at a distance of between 221,460 and 252,760 miles from the Earth), but they use much higher frequencies, usually in the region of 400 megahertz (400,000 kilohertz); these signals can pass through the ionosphere with impunity. When the amateurs bounce their signals off the Moon, they experience a 2.7-second delay from the time of transmitting the signal to receiving it. If one were to bounce a signal off Venus, it would take a few minutes or more from transmission to reception, depending upon the distance between Earth and Venus at that time.

It seems highly unlikely that much of the short-wave radiation that PCJJ or radio hams broadcast back then could have leaked into outer space and been reflected back to Earth, then again encountering the ionosphere and being attenuated again. The strength of this signal would have been so minuscule that it wouldn't have been detectable with the equipment of the time.

Theories about the LDE phenomenon

There have been a number of theories put forth over the years as possible explanations for the LDE phenomenon.

According to one theory, the radio signals are indeed passing through the ionosphere and bouncing off the Moon or planets. This might explain some occurrences but, as was mentioned earlier, the time delay from the Earth to the Moon and back again is always in the vicinity of 2.7 seconds. Venus and Mars would be in the minutes region, depending on how far away they were at the time; and considering that they are small points of reflection, the returning signal would be very small indeed. (The lack of observable consistency in the timing of the echoes is one of the characteristics of the LDE phenomenon.)

Another theory is that the signals are extraterrestrial in origin. This idea was put forth by radiophysicist Professor Ron Bracewell. It basically states that our signals are being intercepted and retransmitted by alien space probes that were placed in near-Earth orbit aeons ago, finally announcing their presence to us

because we have now reached a technological level to receive the signals and investigate them. In light of today's great interest in the UFO phenomenon, this theory should be worthy of consideration in UFO circles.

Finally, there is a theory which is strictly ionospheric in origin, put forth by D. B. Muldrew. In his 1979 article "Generation of Long Delay Echoes", he examined the various ways that the ionosphere might cause radio waves to be delayed. He was of the opinion that ducting in the ionosphere could have the ability to trap radio waves for a certain amount of time. Short delays of up to a second could

The only thing to be determined is what is causing the phenomenon and why the electromagnetic waves are behaving the way they do.

possibly be accounted for by this. Longer delays needed to be given further explanation. Muldrew suggested that a rather complex interaction between signals from separate transmitters could create (in theory) a long-lived electromagnetic wave that travels in the ionosphere. He proposed that delays of up to 40 seconds might be possible with this memory effect in the ionosphere.

What are we to make of this interesting scientific phenomenon? It has been experienced and investigated by scientists, so it is actually documented in scholarly journals. There is no doubt that there is something here. The only thing to be determined is what is causing the phenomenon and why the electromagnetic waves are behaving the way they do. Perhaps with our ever-expanding knowledge of physics, we will eventually have all the tools at our disposal to piece all of the puzzle together.

We hope that one day soon, the money can be made available to investigate the LDE phenomenon further with more modern technology. Perhaps these investigations could lead to ways of improving radio-wave propagation or even

finding new ways of storing data. Scientific enquiry knows no limits, so let's explore!

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TIBETAN BUDDHISM AND THE GREAT GAME

Tibet has been a locus in The Great Game for control of the Indo-Himalayan and Central Asian regions since the late 19th century, and its Tibetan Buddhist leaders continue to be players rather than pawns.

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What is the position of Tibetan Buddhism in the global geopolitical game, and what do some of the West's leading pro-Buddhist writers have to say about it? You might be very surprised!

The Compassion Contradiction: Tibet Under Tibetan Buddhist Rule

It is late on a dark night. An urgent warning is raised: "They are coming to kill you." A beloved Asian spiritual leader is roused from bed and he sleepily stumbles around his lamasery gathering sacred artworks and a few personal belongings. He pauses momentarily to reassure, kiss and comfort crying faithful disciples who wish to accompany him, but he will not allow them. They can follow him in secret later, when it is safer. Freshly saddled horses arrive at the front door. He is hurriedly hustled onto a horse and his small entourage disappears into the night. A short time later, two battalions of armoured soldiers gallop in the direction of his flight.

Was this the night of the flight of the 14th Dalai Lama to India in 1959? No. It was the flight of the Penchen Lama, the philosophical leader and co-regent of Tibet (*Penchen*, or *Panchen*, means "learned philosopher"). The year was 1923, and he was forced to flee Tibet for his life. He was not in fear of the Chinese: he fled to them knowing that they had a large Buddhist population and that he would be protected. He was forced to flee from the 13th Dalai Lama, the political leader of Tibet, who had sent his soldiers with orders to kill the Penchen Lama on sight and show no compassion.

Nicholas Roerich's Observations

Am I making up this story? No. It is taken from the third chapter, particularly pages 46 and 47, of Nicholas Roerich's famous 1930 book *Shambhala*. Roerich said that the Penchen Lama was planning sweeping religious reforms throughout Tibet in order to do away with despotic lamaistic practices and re-implement more pure Buddhist practices. He suggested this as the possible reason for this attack on the Penchen Lama by the Dalai Lama. As a pro-Buddhist writer, Nicholas Roerich enumerated this event in detail as well as many other grievances of the Tibetan people "as evidence for a coming internal civil war by Tibetans against Lhasa".

On account of all of the distasteful things described in this chapter, Nicholas Roerich, as well as many Buddhists from other nations, refused to call the national religion of Tibet "Buddhism". Roerich had travelled through much of Asia and had studied Buddhism in every country he visited. He claimed that this despotic religion of Tibet bore no resemblance to Buddhism. He preferred to call it "lamaism", as do many other Buddhists who wrote to me after reading my previous article in *NEXUS* (vol. 12, no. 4). David Richardson, who wrote to me on 2 December 2005, is typical of these:

"Dear Dr D'Montford,

"I read your article 'Unveiling Bloody Buddhism' and found some of the practices shocking. I had some idea of the esoteric culture of Tibetan Buddhists. Your evidence highlights for me the fact that this is an erroneous teaching of Buddhism. I feel it highly dangerous to even call the religion 'Buddhist'.

"I am an active practitioner of the Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin, the practice being based on the highest of Sakyamuni's teachings, the Lotus Sutra.

"The Buddhism which you describe is *not* Buddhism... I believe Tibetan Buddhism is a cultural mish-mash of indigenous pagan/shamanistic/Bon practices and is also

polytheistic. I stress: it's *not* Buddhism... I'm sure, anthropologically, [these] ancient esoteric rituals are fascinating but they are definitely non-Buddhist...

"Thank you for your article. It has completely confirmed the danger of the Tibetan tradition clearly. It also has made me realise on a deeper level the truth and beauty of my Buddhist practice and a greater commitment to raise awareness and refute erroneous teachings."

Alexandra David-Néel's Observations

During her travels in Tibet, Alexandra David-Néel observed things which she had difficulty relating to Buddhism. She wrote of these in her books *My Journey to Lhasa* (1927) and *Initiation and Initiates in Tibet* (1959). Concurring with Roerich's account of the expulsion of the Penchen Lama by the Dalai Lama and contradicting the official Western account of his having been abducted by the Chinese, she wrote in *Initiations...* (chapter 11, "The Dalai Lama", p. 149):

"The Tashi [the Western colloquial term for Tsang Penchen Rimpoche or the Penchen Lama] Lama is a learned, enlightened and liberal-minded man. People who are not in the least acquainted with him...say that he is the enemy of foreigners...he is a Buddhist and pacifist and does not encourage those who increase each year the taxes paid by the poorest villagers in order to support the ridiculous army they have been led to organise [by the British] to serve the interest of those who seized their land... If he had been the ruler of Tibet, instead of being compelled to fly from Tashi Lhumpo [the lamasery of the Penchen Lama] to save his life, he would have gladly opened the country to explorers, savants and all honest and well-meaning travellers.

"...The role of the Tashi Lama is identical to that of the Dalai Lama... temporal rulers of Tibet... The practical results of the difference [i.e., one being the secular leader and one being the philosophical leader] are considerable. This was ascertained when the present Tashi Lama was compelled to flee Tibet to escape from his powerful colleague."

So with the spiritual head removed and the political head, the Dalai Lama, left to take the nation's reigns, it is no wonder that Tibet has been such a willing participant in "The Great Game".

With the establishment of the People's Republic of China, Tibet became an important bulwark, the "forbidden land" for the British Empire against further encroachment in Asia by a communist nation.

A French national, Alexandra David-Néel was expelled from Tibet by the British several times. She said of this:

"Although we were yet in that part of Tibet still under Chinese rule, wherein foreigners can travel freely, though at their own risk, it was important that rumours of my wanderings in the

neighbourhood of the border should not spread [to the British]...What right had they to erect barriers around a country which was not even lawfully theirs?" (*Initiations...*, op. cit.)

When she was expelled, the Chinese welcomed her into their Buddhist monasteries, from where she would plan her next travels into the British "forbidden land". This is very different from the official story that it was the Chinese or Tibetan governments which forbade foreigners to travel in Tibet.

Is Tibetan Independence the Issue?

Roerich, David-Néel and many other writers have exposed the atrocities committed by the Tibetan Buddhist society before the re-establishment of Chinese rule.

"Re-establishment of Chinese rule?" I hear you ask. Wasn't Tibet invaded by the despotic Chinese in 1950, and aren't all aware people trying to "free Tibet"?

This is the official, one-sided, propaganda story that is propagated by the "'Big Brother' press of the West", as pointed out by Dr Norman Williams (see below). The truth is very different. I encourage you to check the facts quoted in his article. The sooner that more people wake up to the fact that we have only been getting one side of the story about what is and has happened in Tibet, the sooner they will realise that there are other hidden agendas at work behind this scenario. Otherwise, they will just be reacting unquestioningly to whatever they're told. The propensity for knee-jerk reactions makes people easy to manipulate.

Always question everything and follow up the questions with some research. It is necessary to familiarise yourself with the history of Tibet so that you can step away from manipulation by either side of this debate. My article last year in *NEXUS* covered some of this history in brief. Chapters 5-8 in my book *Unveiling Tibetan*

Buddhist Propaganda and Atrocities cover the history of Tibet in some detail from the viewpoint of sources within and outside of Tibet. Alternatively, as was recently pointed out by Dr Norman Williams in his article "The Truth About Tibet" in *New Dawn* magazine, a brief overview of Tibet's history "can be sourced in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*".

Check for yourself all the sources I quote in the article. Do not take my or anyone else's word about political conditions in any country at face value.

The issue of "Tibet's independence" did not arise until the Opium War of 1840, which began the foreign invasion of China by the West, after which the British tried to separate Tibet from China. This marked the rise in the great spy networks which began with Queen Elizabeth I of England in the 1600s (see Laurence Gardner's *Realm of the Ring Lords*, chapter 14, pp. 187-188). Thus began "The Great Game" involving the Indo-Himalayan region.



Born in Saint-Mandé, Paris, on 24 October 1868, explorer Alexandra David-Néel died in Digne on 8 September 1969. (Source: Wason Collection on East Asia, Cornell University Library)

Rudyard Kipling's *Kim*

The term "The Great Game" was popularised by Rudyard Kipling in his 1901 spy novel *Kim* (first published in serial form in 1900–1901). It tells the story of a Lahore street urchin called Kim (Kimball O'Hara), the orphaned son of a British soldier. Kim incidentally makes contact with the British Secret Service and becomes the disciple of a Tibetan lama, who also ends up working for the British agent. Kim accidentally learns about "The Great Game"—the political power conflict in Central Asia, particularly over Tibet and Afghanistan—and is recruited by the British. Kim's father's regimental chaplain recognises a Masonic symbol worn by Kim, and soon Kim is sent away to a top English school. He is trained in espionage—one technique involving studying a tray full of mixed objects and then noting which ones have been periodically added or taken away. This method is still used for training spies and is called "Kim's Game". Later, Kim rejoins the lama and together they travel to the Himalayas, this time with Kim capturing papers from Russian spies while the lama is on a spiritual quest. At the end of the novel, Kim sees no need to decide between the spiritual and the espionage at which he excels.

In this 1901 book, Tibetan lamas were already being implicated as players in The Great Game. (By the way, the British double agent Harold "Kim" Philby took his nickname from the novel's hero.) It is interesting that over 100 years later, these same players are still at work and arguing over the same pieces of dirt, still using the same methods, each trying to convince the rest of the world that it is right. In more than a century, things have not really changed.

Though often overlooked, the novel *Kim* is a significant work, recognised as influencing the writings of other famous authors including, but not limited, to:

- Robert A. Heinlein, whose novel *Citizen of the Galaxy* details the memorisation technique;
- John Masters, whose *The Lotus and the Wind*, which is also set in The Great Game, has as one of its main protagonists a character seeking some form of spiritual enlightenment;
- Laurie R. King, a popular contemporary author who wrote a novel called *The Game* which quotes Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's work and in which their respective famous characters Mary Russell and the detective Sherlock Holmes go to Tibet to rescue a now mature Kim;
- Peter Hopkirk, whose *Quest for Kim: In Search of Kipling's Great Game* discusses the real-life personages who may have inspired its characters.

Let's shed a little light on the truth behind the fictional stories surrounding this long-running Great Game.

The Great Game in Afghanistan

"The Great Game" is a term, originally attributed to British intelligence officer Arthur Conolly (1807–1842), to describe the rivalry and strategic conflict between the British Empire and the

Tsarist Russian Empire for supremacy in Central Asia. In the Eastern Bloc, this conflict was known as "The Tournament of Shadows".

Though some say that The Great Game commenced in the 1600s, it began in earnest at the start of the 19th century when Imperial Russian expansion threatened to collide with the increasing British dominance of the occupied lands of the Indian sub-continent. The original centre of activity was in Afghanistan, Russia's near neighbour, as the British feared that Afghanistan would become a staging post for a Russian invasion of India.

Though Afghanistan has been the scene of many modern conflicts, its first war with the West was in 1838 with the First Anglo-Afghan War. Four years later, in 1842, the British retreated to India. After the Indian rebellion of 1857, successive British governments saw Afghanistan as a buffer state in much

the same way that Tibet is viewed as a buffer between China and the West today. During 1865 to 1868 and again in 1878, the Russians tried to annex parts of Afghanistan formerly controlled by the British. Tensions again renewed, resulting in the Second Anglo-Afghan War of 1878–1880. The British pulled out again in 1881, leaving Abdur Rahman Khan on the throne. He agreed to let the British maintain Afghanistan's foreign policy while he consolidated his position. He managed to suppress internal rebellions with ruthless efficiency and brought much of the country under central control.

The Russians seized the Oasis of Merv in 1884 and again began to fight Afghan troops. On the brink of war between the two great powers, the British decided to accept the Russian possession. In 1907, the Joint Anglo-Russian Boundary Commission delineated a permanent northern Afghanistan frontier, without any Afghan say in the matter. The Russians accepted that the politics of Afghanistan were solely under British control, as long as the British guaranteed not to change the regime.

Russia agreed to conduct all political relations with Afghanistan through the British. The British agreed that they would maintain the current borders and actively discourage any attempt by Afghanistan to encroach on Russian territory.

The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 nullified existing treaties and a second phase of The Great Game began. The Third Anglo-Afghan War erupted in 1919 when Afghanistan attacked British India's northern frontier. Afghanistan was granted self-determination in foreign affairs and, in May 1921, signed a Treaty of Friendship with the Soviet republic. Great Britain imposed minor sanctions and diplomatic slights as a response to the treaty. In 1923, Afghanistan responded by offering refuge for Muslims who had fled the Soviet Union and Indian nationals in exile from the British Empire. In 1928, the Afghan king abdicated under pressure, and both the Soviets and the British played the circumstances to their advantage and re-established a military interest in the area.

World War II saw the temporary alignment of British and

The issue of "Tibet's independence" did not arise until the Opium War of 1840, which began the foreign invasion of China by the West, after which the British tried to separate Tibet from China.

Soviet interests. In 1940, both governments pressured Afghanistan for the removal of a large number of German espionage agents.

Behind The New Great Game

With the end of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War, the United States of America displaced Great Britain as the global power, asserting its influence in the Middle East in pursuit of oil and access to other resources as well as containment of the Soviet Union.

This period is sometimes referred to as "The New Great Game" by commentators, and there are references in the military, security and diplomatic communities to "The Great Game" as an analogy or framework for events involving India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tibet and, more recently, the post-Soviet republics of Central Asia. Its machinations can be seen in the military history of Iran, European influence in Afghanistan, geostrategy in Central Asia, petroleum politics and globalisation.

In The New Great Game, psychology, ideals, ideologies and beliefs are more important than brute strength and information gathering.

Following the war, the government of Tibet, at that time being the Tibetan Buddhist leaders—primarily the Gelugpas or Yellow Hat sect, of which the Dalai Lama is the political, not religious, head—became actively involved in the "second phase" of The Great Game and in "The New Great Game" with the United States.

Recall, however, that The Great Game had shifted for a while so that the British and Russian empires teamed up against a new third player, Germany. The German agents captured in Afghanistan were there in support of the German expeditions in Tibet. Nazi Germany sent seven expeditions to Tibet, the most famous one by Austrian SS members Heinrich Harrer and Peter Aufschnaiter, now best known through the biography and film *Seven Years in Tibet*.

The other infamous expedition is the one in 1938–39 led by Ernst Schäfer. Himmler, leader of the Nazi's SS and the second-most-powerful man in the Third Reich, sent Schäfer's expedition, which included a zoologist, an anthropologist and several other scientists, to Tibet on the eve of war to examine Tibetan nobles for signs of Aryan physiology, undermine the British relationship with the ruling class and sow the seeds of rebellion among the populace. The official story is that Himmler sponsored this expedition supposedly on the basis of his belief in the role of eugenics and physical anthropology and on the work of Felix von Luschan. In 1922, von Luschan issued 10 statements about anthropology, such as: "There are no savages, there are only different cultures. The real barbarians are those ignorant white men who are unable to fathom other races and who exploit them..." (This is quoted in Klein and Takahata's textbook *Where Do We Come From?*)

There is also a less popularised, but more important, reason for interest in this region by both of the players in The Great Game.

There has long been a legend that the next world leader would come from the northwestern Tibetan region from a hidden, mystical, Camelot-style land called Shambhala. There are many names for this leader. The indigenous Tibetans call him Gesar Khan (the Romans took their term "Caesar" from the name of this legendary ruler) and await his return. The Hindus call him the Chakravartin, the next incarnation of Vishnu. The Buddhists call him Rigden-jyepo, the Kalki King. These equate to the return of King Arthur or Jesus Christ, the Jewish messiah, and to the prophecies of the next great Islamic leader, etc. This is the theme of Roerich's book *Shambhala*. The Nazis had an enthusiasm for Shambhala, too, where they hoped to find an ancient Nordic master race in a remote area "unspoiled" by Buddhism.

Therefore, if the legend is to be believed, it follows that by controlling that area you can control the possible future leader of humankind. On the strength of this concept, groups of Tibetan lamas were taken back to live in Berlin so they could give instruction in these matters. It became a popular concept that Hitler was the next Chakravartin or Kalki King who would bring real order in Europe. It then became necessary to try to establish Aryan links to this area to give this story validity within the Nazi ideological framework. Academics still write papers on the correlations between the indigenous Gesar Khan tales and the legends of Siegfried and Arthur.

These doctrines of Nazi cosmology became so readily assimilated in Europe that Tibet became, and continues to be, an important locus of Western spiritual projections, including but not limited to the following esoteric and practical matters:

- Darwin's 1859 theory of evolution was prompted by the Tibetan legend that all men came from eight tribes of

apes;

- Blavatsky's Council of Ascended Masters in Tibet, since first "transmitting" in 1870, has had an influence that has filtered through the entire New Age movement;

- Rudolf Hess and Rudolf von Sebottendorf organised the German secret society Thule-Gesellschaft, established in 1919 upon lamaist teachings;

- Karl Haushofer founded the Institute for Geopolitics in Munich in 1922;

- The United Nations owes its establishment in 1945 to the popularity of these assimilated cosmologies.

These facts are pointed out in many contemporary history books including Christopher Hale's *Himmler's Crusade: The Nazi Expedition to Find the Origins of the Aryan Race*, which asks penetrating questions about the relationship between science and politics.

This assimilation for the purposes of political manipulation is largely due to the influence of political manoeuvres like Colonel Sir Francis Younghusband and Nicholas Roerich, who seized upon the inspiring power and political effectiveness of such ideals. It should be remembered that although Roerich, a

Nazi Germany sent seven expeditions to Tibet, the most famous one by Austrian SS members Heinrich Harrer and Peter Aufschnaiter, now best known through the biography and film *Seven Years in Tibet*.

Russian national, produced wonderful works of art and wrote many beautiful books on Tibet (which were very similar to those written by Younghusband), he did so for the same reasons as his counterpart.

Roerich's political manoeuvrings in The Great Game saw him established as adviser to minister for agriculture and US vice-presidential candidate Henry A. Wallace and put on the US Government payroll, which funded his trips to Tibet in 1926 and 1928, partnered by the Soviet agent Yakov Blumkin. The official propaganda excuse for these US-funded trips to Great Game Central was for Roerich to bring back experimental samples of drought-resistant grasses. Roerich's reasons for these trips in his writings were:

- to examine ancient Zhang Zhung texts;
- to explore the Sotlej Valley, Tibet, Mongolia, northeastern China and certain valleys of southern Siberia;
- to discover the location of Shambhala, from which will emerge the 25th Kalki King with a huge army and super-weapons to vanquish the corrupt and usher in a worldwide Golden Age.

These are nearly identical to the reasons for the Nazi SS expeditions.

Roerich convinced Wallace to get Henry Morgenthau, Jr, secretary of the Treasury, to add the symbol of the pyramid with the All-Seeing Eye to the US one-dollar bill, which he did in 1934. Wallace was also able to get President Roosevelt and delegates from 21 nations to sign the Roerich Pact in 1935, which led to the establishment of the United Nations as well as Camp David, originally named "Shambhala" (which supposedly miraculously avoided disaster on 9/11). Find more about Roerich's part in The Great Game in the book *Tournament of Shadows*, by Karl Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac.

Though most of the West retains glowing feelings for the Tibetan Buddhists, Germany's love affair with all things Tibetan Buddhist has not lasted. In Munich in May 2000, the media accused the Dalai Lama of:

- deliberately falsifying the history of Tibet;
 - maintaining personal and working relationships with former members of the SS (Heinrich Harrer and others) and Neo-Nazis;
 - defaming critics;
 - conducting misogynistic rituals;
 - having an undemocratic and autocratic leadership style;
 - suppressing any political opposition;
- and
- actively repressing religious minorities.

The faces of the players changed after World War II, but the old conflicts remained. The United States replaced the British Empire as the public face of the Western forces, yet the struggles remained in the same areas for the same reasons.

China eventually replaced Germany as

the third wheel in The Great Game. The older opponents then allied themselves against this new player.

Tibetan Spies on Both Sides

There is an increasing number of books on the market that highlight Tibet's part in this Great Game. One such book, *The Struggle for Modern Tibet* by Goldstein et al. (1997), is written about Tsering, a Tibetan national recruited into The Great Game in much the same way as described in the book *Kim*. The great thing about this story is that it complicates our view of modern Tibet. It begins to show the difference between the simplistic, altruistic stories we have been told and what really happened

there. Born in 1929 in a Tibetan village, Tsering developed a strong dislike of his country's theocratic ruling elite. As a 13-year-old member of the Dalai Lama's personal dance troupe, he was frequently whipped or beaten by teachers for minor infractions. Although heterosexual, he escaped the country by becoming a *drombo*, or homosexual passive partner and sex toy, for a well-connected monk. After studying at the University of Washington, he returned to Chinese-occupied Tibet in 1964. This unusual story also suggests a middle

way between authoritarian Chinese rule and a return to Tibet's old despotic order.

A Tibetan Revolutionary: The Political Life and Times of Bapa Phüntso Wangye by Goldstein et al. (2004) details the life of a Tibetan national, Phunwang, recruited for the other side of The Game. As a teenager, Phunwang eagerly joined a Chinese-run program designed to train ethnic minorities for government work. A natural-born leader, he was convinced that communism was the key to better lives for Tibet's poor and started the Tibetan Communist Party, earning praise from both the Dalai Lama and Mao Zedong. Yet he was expelled from Tibet in 1940, and for

As a 13-year-old member of the Dalai Lama's personal dance troupe, he was frequently whipped or beaten by teachers for minor infractions.



Heinrich Harrer (1912–2006) is pictured with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who presented him with the International Campaign for Tibet's Light of Truth Award in Graz, Austria, on 15 October 2002

the next nine years he worked to organise a guerrilla uprising. In 1949, before the Chinese invasion, he merged his Tibetan Communist Party with Mao's Chinese Communist Party. He played an important role in the party's administrative organisation in Lhasa, and as he was fluent in Chinese and comfortable with Chinese culture he was made the translator for the young Dalai Lama during his famous 1954–55 meetings with Mao Zedong. In the 1950s, Phunwang was the highest-ranking Tibetan official within the Communist Party in Tibet.

So there were Tibetan Buddhists who were spies within Tibet for either side of this Great Game.

The CIA's Secret Campaign in Tibet

We also have the first-hand accounts of several US spies within Tibet who were playing out this New Great Game, too.

"That the free Tibetan community has been able to survive and even thrive...and the Tibetan issue has a higher profile today than at any time since the 1959 flight of the Dalai Lama, is owed in no small part to the secret assistance channelled by the United States..." This quote is taken from the book *The CIA's Secret War In Tibet*, by former CIA agents Kenneth Conboy and James Morrison, which details matters such as:

- the CIA's secret campaign in Tibet was a vital part of contemporary Tibetan history;
- the CIA's radio agents aided the Dalai Lama to arrive safely in exile;
- in his early years on Indian soil, the Dalai Lama relied on CIA assistance to get settled; and
- though the CIA-supported guerrilla army in Mustang proved ineffectual on the ground, the mere fact that there were Tibetan troops under arms was a significant boost to morale in the refugee community.

The Great Game took a different swing when uranium was discovered in Tibet. Thomas Laird has written an interesting book called *Into Tibet*, detailing his work as the CIA's first nuclear spy and his secret mission into Lhasa. China invaded that land in 1950, accusing Tibet of playing into the hands of

enemy imperial powers. Laird suggests that the communist government may have had a point. He cites his reconstruction of a little-documented CIA mission into Tibet that was intended, at least in part, to keep the country's uranium stores from falling into Russian hands.

As proof of this, Laird traces the story of two CIA agents, Douglas Mackiernan and Frank Bessac, sent on an intelligence expedition to Tibet in 1949–1950 at the height of US concern about the Soviet Union's nuclear experiments and the spread of communism in China. Mackiernan, who was killed during the mission, was the first undercover CIA agent to die in the line of duty, and Bessac, with several other cohorts, trekked through Tibet on foot, gathering nuclear intelligence and establishing regional contacts. The mission was part of a US attempt to arm Tibet, and Laird argues that the American presence may have precipitated China's invasion of the country. The US abruptly abandoned Tibet by cutting off covert funding after establishing diplomatic relations with China in the 1970s. It then abandoned the Tibetan freedom fighters, many of whom were monks and were arrested by the Chinese. The mission was a failure on all counts, and the surviving participants were carefully hidden away. Half a century later, the CIA will not "confirm or deny" that Douglas Mackiernan was "shot dead on the borders of Tibet and Sinkiang", as much of the source material remains classified.

Is it possible that the monks and nuns imprisoned by the Chinese during this period may not have been imprisoned because of religious reasons at all? It does seem strange to me that China, with a large Buddhist population, even under communist rule, would take exception to Buddhist religious practices. Arresting people who practise the same religion as you but who are trying to overthrow the government makes more sense. What could they gain by lying and claiming religious persecution as the only reason for their arrest? What has a supposedly pacifist religion gained from participating in this great political play?

The Tibetan Buddhists have achieved a massive spread in Tibetan Buddhism. All these factors helped carry the diaspora and its leadership through the darkest years of exile when their cause might otherwise have been forgotten. In addition, their coffers have been filled with world currency and they have gained immense political clout by creating and actively participating in a collective victim-consciousness and psychology of suffering, even though these things seem to run contrary to the Buddha's doctrines.

Where would they learn such methods? It began with the invasion of Tibet by Colonel Younghusband.

Younghusband's Influence

Colonel Sir Francis Edward Younghusband (1863–1942) was a very interesting character. He was a distinguished British Army officer, mountaineer and explorer as well as the youngest member of the Royal Geographic Society, receiving its coveted gold medal in 1890 at the age of twenty-seven. He worked in the Indian arm of the British Secret Service and then became a political reformer and the first to campaign for



Members of the (Sikkim) Tibet Mission Force (escort to Colonel Younghusband's Mission to Tibet, 1903–04). Younghusband is seated in the centre of the photograph, wearing the fur coat and hat. © Royal Geographical Society

"human rights" under that name. He also founded the World Congress of Faiths in 1936 and authored many books on spiritual topics. Oh, and did I mention that in 1904 he invaded Tibet?

In his own writings, he openly described his involvement in The Great Game five years before he invaded Tibet. In 1889, Younghusband was the commanding officer of a famous Gurkha regiment which surveyed the Hunza Valley, and he was one of the first to report on the longevity and virility of the people living there. While he was based in Hunza, a messenger came to his camp, inviting him to dinner with Captain Gromchevsky, the man he describes as his "Russian counterpart in The Great Game". Younghusband accepted, and after dinner the two rivals talked into the night, sharing brandy and vodka and discussing the possibility of a Russian invasion of British India.

Transferred in 1890 to the Indian Political Service, an arm of the British Secret Service, Younghusband served as a political officer on secondment to the British Army. From 1902 to 1904 he was British Commissioner to Tibet. In 1903–04, he led a military mission to Tibet as a result of fears that the Tibetans were harbouring Russian war criminals who had stockpiles of illegal Russian weapons that they were using in disputes over the Sikkim–Tibet border. Sound familiar? The mission controversially became a *de facto* invasion and British forces occupied Lhasa. The invasion was brutal and quick, with the invading force sustaining few casualties. This was due to the terrifying power of the new *Maxim* machine-guns used by Younghusband's forces. The Tibetans did not have any Russian weapons of mass destruction, only old muskets. The *Maxim* guns mowed them down like grass, and the survivors quickly surrendered.

The invasion also paid for itself. The Tibetan government agreed to pay the equivalent of £500,000 over 75 years to cover the costs. A British trade office was established in the country and a frontier valley was to host a British force until the indemnity was paid off. The British force was supported by King Ugyen Wangchuck of Bhutan, who was knighted in return for his services.

Ironically, when Younghusband returned to Britain he launched his patriotic "Fight for Right" campaign in 1915; it was the beginning of the human rights movement as we know it today and the first to use and popularise the term "human rights". Before World War I, the term was not in use. In reality it became a front for world war propaganda, as the campaign's main work appears to have been to commission flyers and letters from reputable members of society that extolled Britain's moral rectitude for participating in war. The Fight for Right campaign commissioned the hymn *Jerusalem* as its anthem. This pro-war propaganda fighting song was such an "inspiration" to this new human rights movement that it has become one of England's most popular patriotic songs, often being used as an alternative anthem. It is the official anthem of the British National Party and the British Women's Institute and is sung at British sporting events.

**Younghusband's
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Younghusband kept an active interest in Tibet until his death in 1942, under the cover of sponsoring attempts to climb Mount Everest and other Himalayan mountains and claim them for the British Empire. One of the first climbing groups to get Younghusband's "approval" to enter the "forbidden" country was just after his invasion of Tibet. This was the ill-fated 1905 expedition which included a young Aleister Crowley, a self-confessed British secret agent. Crowley openly participated in drug-induced conditioning, reconditioning and suggestion experiments with his groups in Italy. These techniques became essential components of a new generation of strategic warfare.

Younghusband maintained British sway in Tibet until his death. Due to his influence, Tibet became and remained the forbidden country. It was during the time of Younghusband's greatest influence that the Penchen Lama—the one person best positioned to call a nation to its senses and oppose Tibet's participation in a game that ran contrary to Buddhist spiritual practice—was chased out of Tibet by the 13th Dalai Lama. Did Younghusband achieve this by great force? No! He achieved it by minimal force and cost, but maintained it by maximum use of other methods. He was adept at using political tools: songs, spirituality, exploration, human rights campaigns, sporting events, crippling debt, subterfuge, alliances, silent removal of opposition and, above all, the art of misdirection of blame.

These political tools were readily absorbed by the new leader of the Tibetan government who, incidentally, was being trained for his job while Younghusband was deploying this new generation of warfare methods. It must be remembered that the Dalai Lama is the political head of Tibet. In a mode similar to that set out in Plato's *Republic*, the 13th Dalai Lama would have been trained from an early age in all of the skills required to be an effective political leader. This training would have included these less-than-honourable skills of this new statecraft.

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Rev. Dr Shé D'Montford, editor of *Spellcraft* magazine (<http://www.spellcraft.com.au>), has an honorary doctorate in religion and philosophy, specialising in Tibetan and Hindu shamanism and ancient warrior codes. In recent years, Shé has travelled extensively, presenting public discourses on Tibetan Buddhism's darker side as well as teaching an authentic recreation of 1,600-year-old hermetic magick rituals. Shé has authored many articles on these subjects for international and national esoteric and New Age magazines. Shé is a contributing author to new books by Deborah Gray and Oberon Zell-Ravenheart. She has appeared on television and radio and has presented lectures at numerous festivals. Dr D'Montford spoke at the Brisbane NEXUS Conference in September 2005. Her book *Unveiling Tibetan Buddhist Propaganda and Atrocities: A Way for Progress in the Tibet/China Conflict* was featured and reviewed in NEXUS vol. 12, no. 4.

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THE BURROWS CAVE

AFRICAN GOLD IN ILLINOIS?

A cave that Russell Burrows claims to have discovered in 1982 allegedly contained inscribed gold and stone artefacts, human remains and a golden sarcophagus that has been linked to the Mauritanian king Juba II.

by Philip Coppens © 2006

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The story of the Burrows Cave is more about human behaviour than archaeology. It is the story of an alleged cave containing the tomb of an African king who reached North America in the 1st century AD—and the subsequent controversy that the artefacts created.

— Philip Coppens

Every discovery has its dangers. In version one of our story, Russell Burrows accidentally discovered a cave along a branch of the Little Wabash River near his home town of Olney, Illinois, USA, in 1982. Hunting for discarded archaeological relics, he found a shallow cave leading into a subterranean corridor, the likes of which you'd not expect to find in rural Illinois. The passageway was lined with oil lamps, the ceiling black from smoke. The 500-foot-long tunnel had several chambers along it—but what it contained, Burrows was unwilling to divulge. In version two, in 1982 Burrows created a hoax: claiming to have discovered a tomb, he then tried to sell faked stone artefacts of his own making, which he'd copied from various books.

The so-called Burrows Cave is famous for its large numbers of inscribed stones, often containing profiles of people who look African, Egyptian and European as well as Native American. On first sight they look crude: the work of an amateur or someone meeting an imminent deadline. Furthermore, preliminary analyses of the writing on the stones revealed a mix, if not a mismatch, of various styles, words and languages that archaeologists and linguists quickly labelled as "obviously fake" ("obvious" being a preferred word that scientists use to underline what they can easily, *obviously*, see is fake, though amateurs are fooled by it, *obviously*).

As early as 1983, Burrows did place a very small collection of the artefacts on sale in a local antique shop—but if he created the entire collection, it is clear he created so many that he could never have got rid of them all. Moreover, it was not until 1997 that he or anyone else would "cash in" on the stones themselves. If Burrows wanted to get rich from creating fake artefacts, his hoax was obviously ill executed.

But the cave is more than just a collection of inscribed stones. Burrows allegedly found and removed many gold artefacts. These look genuine and contain the same mismatch of writing. You can only wonder why a fraud, if Burrows were indeed one, would use gold—which, to begin with, is costly to obtain.

It is true that there are conflicting stories about this gold. Burrows at one point stated that some of the gold had been melted down and then sold. The Swiss author Luc Bürgin claimed that Burrows removed huge quantities of gold, had it melted down and then sold it, depositing a grand total of US\$15 million into Swiss bank accounts. If true, this indicates that Burrows did indeed get his hands on tremendous amounts of gold and decided to sell for the gold's monetary value—not the archaeological value. But others have stated that Bürgin was merely told this "information" by a fellow researcher and possesses no evidence for his assertion.

Some sceptics claim that the "gold" never existed, that it has never been seen. That's not true, because early researchers *did* see it. I have been shown colour photographs of apparently gold artefacts by Burrows himself; I still have some of these photos in my possession, and they are available for viewing on my website. Other critics argue that the "gold" was just metal, finished off with gold paint to make it look real. If they are correct, then Burrows merely created these artefacts to fool archaeologists, amateur

scientists and the media and he could never allow any direct contact with or testing of the artefacts. It would also mean that he could never have regarded the "gold" artefacts as part of a quick money-making scheme. In short, this conclusion is incompatible with the other sceptics' argument, which is that Burrows tried to make money from a hoax.

The Golden Sarcophagus and Human Remains

If the story is genuine, Burrows discovered a human skeleton—a male—in the first crypt. The second chamber had a funeral bier with the remains of a woman and two children. A golden spearhead lay in the woman's ribs, where the heart would have been. The skulls of the children showed signs of perforation. The scene suggested that the woman and children had been murdered at the time when the male, her husband, died.

In total, there were 12 crypts. The central chamber, containing the golden sarcophagus, was closed by a stone that had to be rolled away. The room, including the ceiling, was decorated and white marble was seen throughout. The golden sarcophagus inside the stone tomb resembled the ancient Egyptian form of burial: it displayed the same style of wearing the hair as well as the crossed arms on the body, and the hands were holding the ankh symbol. It is said that Burrows was able to prise open the sarcophagus and note that it seemed to contain human remains as well as a death mask, also thought to be of Egyptian origin.

Although the sarcophagus was of tremendous value—to be compared with the golden sarcophagus of Tutankhamun—it could not be removed from the cave by just Burrows with the help of his brother-in-law. Furthermore, Burrows was unsure as to whether he might face prosecution if he disturbed the human remains he'd found in the cave or if he tried to sell any of its contents. The sceptics seldom address this part of the story, as they claim that there never was a cave at all, and hence no sarcophagus, and hence no human skeleton inside.

Reactions to the Discovery

Let us assume that the cave exists, and see how far we can follow Burrows into it. His situation was extremely complex: he was totally unprepared for such a find (who wouldn't be?), and his volatile character did not help in a situation where patience is a virtue.

On 27 July 1984, the local *Olney Daily Mail* ran a small article identifying Burrows as the



Gold artefacts (above and below) from the cave, showing Egyptian or Egyptian inspired marks on the gold. © Russell Burrows

discoverer of a local cave, but provided little more except for this hope: "...the university [with which he was in contact] will probably begin the dig next year. At that time, more information can be given."

Though Burrows sought help from the scientific world, he received mixed reactions from it. Soon afterwards, one "amateur archaeologist" after another pressed his doorbell. Each one almost immediately asked to see the cave. It's like a person in a plaster cast getting constantly asked whether someone can see or sign his/her plaster; at some point the answer will be "no", because it feels as if no one is interested in you but only in your plaster. For Burrows, it felt like all they wanted was to see the cave; they had no basic respect or regard for his own

wishes, often not even bothering to ask about them. People such as these came away disappointed, hurt because Burrows did not want to play their game, and they often voiced scathing opinions. Some even considered Burrows's presence incidental.

One attempt to commercialise the cave occurred in 1994 when Harry Hubbard and Paul Kelly claimed the ancient alphabets on the stones to be a combination of Latin and Etruscan. The inscriptions revealed, they claimed, that the tomb of Alexander the Great was buried in Illinois. What made Hubbard and Kelly stand out from competing theorists was their Jack Russell-type attacks on anyone who disagreed with them. They have also been described as appearing "to spend the majority of their time seeking investors and peddling home-made videotapes".

They did not need Burrows; they were going to locate the tomb themselves. They are typical examples in a long line of people who have tried to use the cave for their own financial benefit, for

fame or to confirm their pet theory—and most often all three mixed into one lethal cocktail.

In the "pet theory" category was Joseph P. Mahan, author of the 1983 book *The Secret*, who suggested in a 1991 lecture that the cave was connected with "sun-related semi-divine mortals [who] were the descendants of extraterrestrial immortal progenitors who had come to Earth in fire ships, had resided for a while [and] had upgraded the humanoids they found here by modifying the genes of these children of Earth, thus producing a hybrid progeny". Such a nonsensical conclusion is not based on anything at all that Burrows ever said about the case, but it is clear that it rubbed off badly on Burrows's image and the cave.



Another example of how the cave became a hostage in other people's battles is the story of Richard Flavin, who used the cave to persecute Frank Joseph. For more than 15 years, Joseph had nothing to do with the story until, in his position as a writer for *The Ancient American* magazine, he became interested and eventually wrote a book about it (*The Lost Treasure of King Juba*; Bear & Co., 2003).

But Flavin instead focused on Joseph's past as a neo-Nazi (dating back to the early 1970s) and uses this as ammunition to "prove" that anyone suggesting the cave could be real is hence a neo-Nazi. Flavin met Burrows on a few occasions, but his interpretation of events is spurious at best and his account reads more like that of a Christian missionary in the lands of the "primitives" or a communist witch-hunter of the 1950s than a scientific approach to the subject (see <http://www.flavinscorner.com/falling.htm>).

In the final analysis, the story of the Burrows Cave is typical for a finding of this nature. Just look at other similar discoveries and replace the names; the general storyline would hardly alter. The same basic stand-off is here, with the scientific experts quick to condemn the artefacts they were shown as "obvious forgeries". By default, the artefacts could not be genuine, for we all "know" that Columbus was the first to reach America.

When it came to the amateurs, Burrows was unprepared for and unaware of the amount of in-fighting and controversy that exists in most amateur organisations—though communities such as those interested in UFOs, the mystery of Rennes-le-Château and crop circles have so far easily outperformed anything that the "diffusionists" (those researching anomalous evidence in the New World, suggestive of transoceanic contacts) have been capable of. Burrows had thrown out a giant bone and the dogs were fighting over it. In the process, he was eaten—and so was his story.

Ground-Penetrating Radar Tests

Unfortunately, Russell Burrows's personal disillusionment led him to dynamite the entrance to the cave. He reportedly did this in 1989, three years before his co-written book *The Mystery Cave of Many Faces* was published (with Fred Rydholm; Marquette, 1992). It's an extremely level-headed account of his discovery of the cave and the artefacts inside—and something that he



Gold artefact from the cave, clearly showing Egyptian or Egyptian-inspired marks on the gold. © Russell Burrows

considered to be his final word on the topic.

But though Burrows often claimed to have lost interest in his discovery (largely due to the difficult people he had to deal with), he still returned to it, like to an old flame.

The fact that he could not let go, even though there was nothing in it for him any more, should perhaps be seen as the best evidence that Burrows had indeed made a legitimate discovery. For if this discovery had started as a money-making scheme in 1982, by 1992 he had long abandoned such hope.

But the story did not die. In 1993, diffusionist thinkers now had a new magazine to turn to, *The Ancient American*, which over the course of the subsequent decade continued to follow the story of the cave. In 1999, the magazine's founder/publisher Wayne May decided that if no one else could bring about a change in the situation, he would do so himself.



Stone found outside the Burrows Cave, showing an apparently African face. © Russell Burrows

Having reported on the subject for the previous six years, spoken to the man and heard him out, May got Burrows to sign a contract and to disclose and show him the location of the cave—despite his initial belief that Burrows had lied about the location and had actually laid a false trail.

I have to say that, from my personal dealings with Burrows in 1992 and 1993, I found him to be a man of honour. If he promised something, he would do it (cue for the critics to laugh at what they will see is my "obvious" gullibility). And that, it seems, is what May felt as well.

So, despite his initial reluctance to believe, May finally knew the location and persevered with his investigations. His ground-penetrating radar indicated that "a cave" was indeed there. The problem was how to get in, considering that Burrows's explosion a decade earlier had destroyed the entrance. Unfortunately, it soon became evident that the explosion had not only blocked the entrance but had also damaged the

interior of the tunnel.

During May's various attempts to gain access, each time he stumbled upon huge quantities of water. This seemed to indicate that the explosion had diverted the flow of an underground river and as a result had caused water to gush into the underground complex. It therefore looked like salvaging anything from the underground complex would be terribly complex—and largely outside May's capabilities.

Sceptics versus Truth-seekers

In a nutshell, this is a nearly 25-year-long story that has left hardly anyone who has looked into it untouched or without an opinion. It is all too easy to label Burrows a hoaxer. People who have known and worked with him have called him many things, but not a fabricator of evidence or a liar. He has an explosive nature on occasions and has sometimes not been the best judge of character. But Burrows's character flaws are largely incidental in this narrative. Only his sceptics focus too heavily on them, whereas they should be focusing instead on whether or not he could actually have fabricated any, let alone such huge numbers of, inscribed stones.

If we were placed in the same situation, the end result would be the same, for it is in the nature of such discoveries and how we react to them that they tend to produce the same kind of outcomes. The sceptics would call it an "obvious hoax" and the proponents would call it "clear evidence", finally proving their respective arguments, whatever they may be.

So, the fate of the cave was sealed, doomed, from the moment that Burrows slid down into it.

Where does this leave us? For sceptics to cry foul, they need to come up with better than "obvious" statements. There is no evidence that Burrows faked the stones. The sceptics argue that Burrows was known to work with wood and create wooden artefacts in his spare time. Indeed. This they see as "evidence" that he faked the stones.

More importantly, there *is* evidence that a cave system exists where Burrows claims it exists. If it is all a hoax, the sceptics will need to provide evidence instead of repeatedly using the word "obvious".

Still, even if the cave system is there, it may perhaps be lost to us forever. Any operation that could be mounted to provide a conclusive answer would cost an extraordinary amount of money—and such resources are "obviously" not in the hands of the diffusionists.

So it seems that, once again, the establishment has won the fight—and that may be the only obvious thing about this entire story.

From Old World to New?

What sense can we make of all this? Could a golden sarcophagus, allegedly found in an Illinois cave, be evidence of pre-Columbian transoceanic travel between the "Old World" and the Americas, as so many people have claimed?

While Burrows described what the cave looked like and what it contained, fortunately most of the artefacts removed from the cave were photographed early on, in part due to the efforts of James Schertz and Fred Rydholm. Various researchers have looked at this collection, and archaeologists have been quick to point out the mismatches.

But most cultures are a mismatch of cultures! London and New York are prime examples of how various cultures create a new one. Things were no different in ancient times, Alexandria probably being the best example.

An important clue is that some of the stone slabs displayed a signature that was known in the Old World. It belonged to one

Alexander Helios, son of the infamous Cleopatra and Marc Antony and twin brother of Cleopatra Selene, the future co-ruler of Mauritania (in Africa's western Sahara). This is the angle that Hubbard and Kelly built upon.

Amongst Burrows's earliest team of amateur researchers were Jack Ward and Warren Cook, the latter who died in 1989. Cook's analysis of the artefacts made him conclude that creating them would have taken thousands of hours. But more importantly, Cook continued Ward's analysis of their possible origin and argued that they were most likely the remains of a Libyan-Iberian expedition. He identified Mauritania's King Ptolemaeus I (1 BC – 40 AD), son of Cleopatra Selene and King Juba II (52-50 BC – 23 AD), as the man responsible for this transoceanic voyage. Could this have been possible?

The rulers of Mauritania had fallen foul of the Roman emperors, if only because of the economic power that Mauritania had become, turning the scales on who was in control of whom.

When the Roman Empire decided to redress that balance, the Mauritanian king Juba II and his family had to flee. It's possible that he used the knowledge of the seas that his ancestors, the Phoenicians, had gathered: he knew the location of the Azores, whose goods he was able to sell at the highest prices in Rome and elsewhere.

So, if the Burrows Cave artefacts are genuine and the interpretation correct, it's possible that the Phoenician-informed Mauritanian royal family sailed further west, beyond the Azores, to the Americas.

If they ended up in Central America, perhaps they entered the Mississippi River and travelled north until reaching Illinois—where they settled, far removed from the squabbles of the Old World.

The cave artefacts are not the only evidence of the presence of an enigmatic people in the first century AD. According to a local Native American legend, the region contains the tomb of a king who was not native to America. The tribe once knew the location, but this information is now lost. Could this location be the same as

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**More importantly,
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the Burrows Cave?

Furthermore, it is known that Juba II ordered a golden sarcophagus to be prepared for the mausoleum that had been built for him in Tipaza (in modern-day Algeria). This was one of the prized possessions that the Romans had tried to get their hands on, but they never did find the sarcophagus or the Mauritanian king. Official history is silent on the fate of both.

Yet it is clear that King Juba II must have died and that he and his sarcophagus must have ended up somewhere, perhaps in Illinois. That seems "obvious" logic to me—and logic may be all that we can work with for the foreseeable future.

About the Author:

Philip Coppens has previously contributed five articles to NEXUS, the most recent being "The Quest for the Metal Library" (see vol. 13, no. 4).

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STRANGE ENCOUNTERS WITH WINGED HUMANOIDS

Sightings of "flying beings" have been noted around the globe since time immemorial. The fairytales of almost every nation have a description of a winged creature that looks like a human being. However, only in recent times have researchers in different parts of the world begun trying harder to crack the mystery of the flying creatures.

American researchers became the first ones to show interest in the "flying humanoids". The US Air Force archives hold a report on a "UFO" filed by one William S. Lamb from Nebraska.

Mr Lamb was on a hunting trip near Hewbell [Hubbell] on 22 February 1922 when suddenly, at 5.00 am, he heard a strange, high-pitched sound coming from above. Mr Lamb looked up and saw a big dark object flying in the sky. Then it landed just like an airplane and started walking across the snow. The stranger was at least eight feet tall. Mr Lamb tried to follow the footprints but exhausted himself trudging through the deep snow.

The archives hold similar records about amazing encounters that took place near the small town of Point Pleasant, West Virginia.

On 15 November 1966, two young family couples, residents of Point Pleasant,

were driving in a car to the country to see friends. Dusk was falling as they were driving past an old mill. All of a sudden, one of the women began staring open-mouthed at two red circles that shone brightly in the dark. The circles were about two inches in diameter and seemed to be hanging in the air. Then they started moving towards the car.

The driver and passengers finally saw the eyes of a huge, living being. Its frame resembled that of a human but it looked a lot taller, up to six-and-a-half to seven feet. And it had a pair of wings folded behind its back.

The big red eyes seemed to be hypnotising the group. Everybody was sitting still for a minute or two, unable to look away. Then somebody cried out, "Let's get out of here!". The driver stepped on the accelerator.

The car was crossing the top of a hill when the passengers saw another winged creature, hovering above the trees. It spread its wings and flew straight up into the sky as the car was rolling at 100 miles per hour.

Thomas Uri, a young salesman from Point Pleasant, was driving his car early on the morning of 25 November 1966 when he saw a tall, humanlike form standing in the field nearby. Suddenly, the creature unfolded its wings and rose vertically into

the sky like a helicopter. It was flying above the car for a while, never falling behind, although the car was clocking 75 miles per hour.

It is quite noteworthy that an indescribable fear filled all the residents of Point Pleasant who saw the flying monsters.

A similar flying creature was seen about the same time in the vicinity of the town of New Haven in West Virginia. Connie, an 18-year-old resident of the town, was returning home after a Sunday church service. She was driving past a derelict golf course when a big grey figure, at least seven feet tall, emerged at the roadside. However, it was not so much the height of the creature that caught Connie's attention. She was virtually mesmerised by its two big eyes: they were red and shone brightly. All of a sudden, the creature spread its wings and it lifted up slowly, without making a sound. The creature did not flap its wings during the flight.

Winged creatures of similar description have been reported across the planet.

Four lads were walking back home from a dance near Sandling Park in Kent, England, on 16 November 1963 when they suddenly heard a crackling of the branches and along came a black behemoth. It had a pair of bat-like wings.

A flying being was seen in the village of

Nagorye, in central Russia, in September 1979. It was dusk when a student, Igor Kuleshov, was walking with a girlfriend in a field. He noticed a dark object flying slowly above the ground at a height of about 30 metres.

Igor became speechless as the object moved closer and took the form of a human wearing some kind of shining armour like a knight of the Middle Ages. There was a pale halo around the flying man. He flew right above the astounded couple and vanished in the direction of a forest. They could also hear something resembling a rustle of the leaves on the wind.

US researchers have put forth two theories as to the origins of the "flying beings". According to the first theory, the military conducted a series of experiments involving residents of areas near secret military installations. The experiments had to do with a mind-control research program, which allegedly involved the use of electronic signals to produce the same kind of hallucination. The second theory maintains that the winged creatures do exist, though their origins remain pretty murky and unearthly. The creatures turn up in our dimension once in a while, only to disappear without a trace into another dimension.

(Source: *Pravda*, 13 March 2006, http://english.pravda.ru/science/mysteries/77195-flying_creature-0)

FAIRIES AND ELVES ASSERT THEIR LAND RIGHTS

In the Scottish village of St Fillans, Perthshire, housing developers have lost out to the local fairies.

Plans to build new homes at the edge of Loch Earn were scrapped when the villagers went berserk over the builders' intention to move a single rock...because fairies live beneath it.

The *Times* of London reported on 21 November 2005:

"Marcus Salter, head of Genesis Properties, estimates that the small colony of fairies believed to live beneath a rock in St Fillans, Perthshire, has cost him £15,000.

His first notice of the residential sensibilities of the netherworld came as his

diggers moved on to a site on the outskirts of the village, which crowns the easterly shore of Loch Earn.

"He said: 'A neighbour came over shouting, 'Don't move that rock. You'll kill the fairies.'""

"Then we got a series of phone calls, saying we were disturbing the fairies. I thought they were joking. It didn't go down very well,' Mr Salter said."

According to the *Times*: "The rock protruded from the centre of a gently shelving field, edged by the steep slopes of

Battles between developers and fairies aren't limited to places like Scotland.

Dundurn mountain, where in the sixth century the Celtic missionary St Fillan set up camp and attempted to convert the Picts from the pagan darkness of superstition."

With the locals firmly on the side of the fairies, the developer had to "redesign the entire thing from scratch". But it seems that the fairies do have some implied legal rights. As the *Times* noted: "The Planning Inspectorate has no specific guidelines on fairies, but a spokesman said: 'Planning guidance states that local customs and beliefs must be taken into account when a developer applies for planning permission.'"

Battles between developers and fairies aren't limited to places like Scotland. New York's Staten Island has its own colony of fairies who made a complaint that was noted in 1939:*

"The fairies expressed their fear that, before very long, the beautiful island will have changed into 'a great brick, mortar and steel city, with cement roads, long rows of modern houses built closely together and, will...no longer be a home for fairies'.

"They felt it their duty, Kolff wrote, to leave a verbal account of their life, as well

as a description of Staten Island, 'with its hills and valleys, its lakes and dells, its forests, its wildflowers, its golden grain fields, its delightful country lanes, its waving fields of delicious strawberries and other fruits, and its wildlife filled with song and other birds of all kind'."

In Iceland, the fairies and elves are reportedly so numerous that road construction projects are often re-routed so as not to offend the supernatural creatures living under various rocks. The *New York Times* reported on 13 July 2005:

"Recently, the planning committee considered a resident's application to build a garage. 'One member said, 'I hope it's okay with the elves,'" Ms Erlingsdottir [head of the committee] related.

Should the council determine that it is, in fact, not okay—usually this happens when a local mystic hears from the elf population, directly or through a vision—the town would consider moving the project, or getting the mystic to ask the elves to move away, she said.

"Such occurrences are not unusual. In nearby Kopavogur, a section of Elfhill Road was narrowed from two

lanes to one in the 1970s, when repeated efforts to destroy a large rock that was believed to house elves were thwarted by equipment breakdowns. The rock is still there, jutting awkwardly into the road, but it is unclear whether the tenants are.

"'With the artificial lampposts, there's too much light for them, and there's also too much noise,' explained Gurdrun Bjarnadottir, who has lived across the street for some 30 years. 'A lot of people believe they still live there, but I think they've moved.'"

(Source: *Sploid*, 25 November 2005, http://www.sploid.com/news/2005/11/dont_anger_the.php)

[* Apparently this quote is sourced from an undated letter to the Staten Island online service SILive.com, quoting from a letter addressed to Cornelius G. Kolff, the then president of the Staten Island Historical Society, and signed by "The Council of Staten Island Fairies". Kolff's book, *Staten Island Fairies*, illustrated by Alice Sargent Johnson, was published by Richmond Borough Publishing and Printing Co., New York, in 1939, and can be found in The New York Public Library (ref 917.462 K). – Editor]

THE BROTHERS WHO HAVE LIVED FOR CENTURIES

My entire family comes from Brittany (part of France), and though I was born in the USA I lived in Quimper, Brittany, for a few years and went to college in Brest, Brittany. I have lots of family in that part of the world, and I speak, read and write French as well as I do English.

While living in Quimper (the third largest city in Brittany), I had a friend named Joel, an exceptional person who, though not well educated, seemed to know everything. Joel was a native of Quimper, but he was also an orphan. A fairly well-to-do lady had taken him and his brother Patrick in as foundlings.

Both Joel and Patrick were violent, reckless, dangerous young men. They had been in jail many times for disregarding the law. If, say, they wanted a car, they stole it. If they wanted to climb up to the top of a 500-foot cathedral spire and tie on their shirts to show they'd been there, they did it despite the Quimper municipal authorities. If they wanted to go to Ireland for a few days, they commandeered a boat and sailed over—not a small task considering the coasts of both Ireland and Brittany. Both were excellent sailors, athletes, etc. In fact, what made them so scary is that there seemed to be nothing they were incapable of doing. I remember others immediately dropping out of athletics contests when Patrick and Joel were involved (and not in jail). And speaking of jail, Joel broke out of the gendarmerie jail in Quimper four times because he "knew the way out".

In Brittany, buildings like cathedrals, city halls and even jails are ancient, some dating initially to mediaeval times. Joel and Patrick knew everything about every building, especially the ancient ones. They knew which stones moved, revealing unknown passages, etc. I once accompanied Joel in the middle of the night into an abandoned medieval chateau, a property of the French state. He knew a passage from outside which was totally invisible. I also went into the Quimper city hall with him through an unused sewer. He broke into these kinds of places for fun...or to say he could do it because he "knew the town" and "knew all its secrets". This seemed to be true in incident after incident.

Joel knew things that were true in Quimper families hundreds of years ago—things like skeletons in the closet. He held

his foster mother hostage because of things he knew about illicit land deals in the early 19th century, which would have jeopardised her holdings in the present. She tried to have Joel and Patrick incarcerated several times because she was afraid of this and other things.

Many, many people in Quimper were afraid of Joel and Patrick. I was afraid of them, too, and I was glad Joel had for some reason chosen me as a friend because, frankly, these two were ominous. Good rumour had it that Patrick had gouged someone's eyes out and that Joel had killed someone. I say "good rumour" because it was repeated by so many normal-seeming people.

All around Quimper, there are tiny Breton towns. Joel was known by the damnedest people in all of them: extremely old sailors, café owners, pea farmers and especially peasants. Lots and lots of really old people knew and feared Joel and Patrick. All of what I've written happened in my 20s.

Joel and Patrick were respectively one year and two years younger than I, more or less 21 to 26 years old. Both considered themselves better than anyone, aristocratic even, superior. Both knew Nazi types left over from the occupation of Brittany. They endorsed vehemently ideas of racial and ethnic superiority. They called themselves "evolutionary mutants" and told others that, while they possessed no supernatural powers, they were evolutionarily superior in all other ways. And their looks, brains, connections, language, points of reference and physical abilities seemed to confirm it.

S c h o o l dropouts, they should have been c o u n t r y bumpkins, but Joel could, for example, quote entire pages of Kant and especially Nietzsche by heart.

They spoke no language but French, but their intellectual

range also seemed to be boundless.

Joel always claimed that he'd had a mysterious life, but refused to speak about it during the time that we were best friends. However, a few very old peasant types told me that Joel had "been around for ever". "I knew him when I was a child," one said. "He had a different name and lived on a farm a little way out of town, but it was him." Other old people in Breton villages said more or less the same thing: Joel and Patrick didn't age; they just changed names from era to era and reappeared in different homes.

The time we broke into the Quimper city hall, Joel found a folder...I think it was an old police folder...which had perfect—and I mean *perfect*—likenesses of him and his brother in middle 19th-century garb, surrounded by strangers. "My ancestors," Joel said in such a way that I didn't believe him. The pictures were of him and Patrick—period. And he'd pulled them out of a forgotten locker in a sub-basement of an ancient building.

These and many other things convinced me that Joel and Patrick were indeed "superannuaries".

This all happened between 1970 and 1979, and both men have since disappeared. Relatives of mine in Quimper say they are not gone but living somewhere else in Brittany, some other village, under new names. There seems to be evidence of this.

(Source: by Timmistrail, from the Paranormal Story Archives, June 2001, http://paranormal.about.com/library/blstory_june01_05.htm)





REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

SPYING ON THE BOMB: American Nuclear Intelligence from Nazi Germany to Iran and North Korea by Jeffrey T. Richelson

W. W. Norton, New York, 2006
ISBN 0-393-05383-0 (702pp hc)
Availability: <http://www.wwnorton.com>

A Senior Fellow with the National Security Archive in Washington, DC, Jeffrey Richelson has written a comprehensive history of US nuclear intelligence activities from World War II to today with the uncertainties over Iran's and North Korea's nuclear capabilities.

The Americans have been paranoid about nuclear security since the discovery of nuclear fission in 1939, and deployed scientists with the invading Allied forces in 1944 to learn whether Nazi Germany was preparing to make an atomic bomb. Soon after, they had concerns about the nuclear capabilities of the Soviet Union—contributing to the long Cold War—and then China. The Kennedy administration in 1963 was even considering a plan for a pre-emptive strike on China's fledgling nuclear facilities.

Every time a nation was about to join the nuclear club, the US would extend its spying network and actively discourage it. And the more members, the more competition between nations. Before long, the Americans were monitoring the efforts of allies and foes alike. France, Israel, South Africa, Taiwan, India and Pakistan were under the spotlight, but more so were the "rogue states" of recent times—Iraq, Libya,

Iran and North Korea. The US, in its self-declared role as the world's nuclear watchdog (its own vast arsenal aside), feared that nuclear proliferation would lead to regional arms races particularly in regions of conflict such as the Middle East and Asia.

Richelson includes never-before-published spy photographs from the Archives of suspected and known nuclear facilities in Israel, Russia, China and France (including its nuclear test range at Mururoa in the South Pacific). As the world is still living with the nuclear threat, Richelson's *Spying on the Bomb* won't be the last word.

THE WEAPONS DETECTIVE: The Inside Story of Australia's Top Weapons Inspector

by Rod Barton

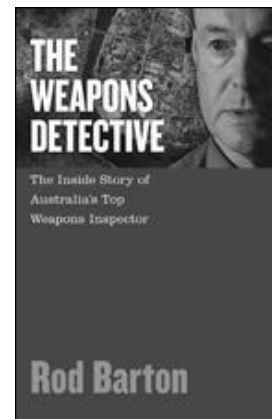
Black Inc. Agenda, Melbourne, 2006
ISBN 0-9750769-5-7 (282pp tpb)
Availability: www.blackincbooks.com

Rod Barton, a retired Australian defence scientific intelligence officer, went public last year with allegations that the Minister for Defence had misled Parliament over Australians being involved in interrogating Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison. Privately, he heard such interrogations were merely interviews. Barton has since expanded on his revelations in *The Weapons Detective*. It charts highlights in his career starting from the early 1980s when, with the Joint Intelligence Organisation, he investigated and put paid to claims that the Soviets were supplying a "yellow rain" biowarfare chemical to the Vietnamese.

Following the end of the first Gulf War, Barton joined the UN as a weapons inspector, determining whether the Iraqis were still pursuing bioweapons and other weapons of

mass destruction. He joined UNSCOM in 1994 as a principal investigator, and later worked as a senior adviser to Hans Blix in UNMOVIC in the lead-up to the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003. Following the invasion, he worked with the Iraq Survey Group on the final assessment of the state of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

As a former insider, he provides sober insights into the politics of weapons inspection and into key players such as Scott Ritter, Richard Butler, David Kelly, David Kay, Hans Blix, the CIA's George Tenet and Iraq's "Dr Germ", among others. He makes a case against prisoner abuse in Iraq and describes the difficulties of resisting political pressure from the CIA and MI6 after the Iraq invasion when the much-touted WMDs failed to materialise. Barton concludes that Australia may have gone to war on a lie, but the solution won't come by the Coalition suddenly withdrawing from Iraq. He slams the politicians and intelligence agents in this riveting memoir of what really goes on behind the scenes before and after war.



REVIEWS



ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN: Legend Come to Life

by Ivan T. Sanderson

Adventures Unlimited Press, Kempton, Illinois, 2006 (first published in 1961)
ISBN 1-931882-58-4 (525pp tpb)
<http://www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com>

The so-called "abominable snowman" or Yeti of the Himalayas is but one form of large, hairy hominids that have been sighted and reported in many parts of the world since antiquity. Naturalist Ivan Sanderson's book about these phenomenal creatures was first published in 1961, yet 35 years later the mystery remains. Perhaps it is that we just haven't looked long enough or with enough dedication, says anthropologist George Agongino in the foreword, yet in the ensuing 35 years there have been many reported sightings of Yetis in the Himalayas, Yowies in Australia, Sasquatches in Canada, Giants in the Solomon Islands and "Bigfeet" in the USA. Nevertheless, the creatures continue to be elusive and to escape capture and scientific identification (although one was caught in Canada in 1884).

Sanderson uses the abbreviation "ABSM" throughout as shorthand for "abominable snowman", even when discussing examples from the tropics. He presents eyewitness and historical accounts, myths and legends as well as circumstantial evidence supporting the existence of these "wild men" in Tibet, Mongolia, Siberia, the Caucasus, North and South America, Indochina, Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula, and elsewhere (though he doesn't include evidence for the Australian yowie). The book contains anthropological discussion of "primitive" peoples found in areas also known for ABSM sightings, although some of this

sounds a bit dated scientifically and somewhat non-PC by today's standards.

In the end, Sanderson asks readers to draw their own conclusions, but he does have strong words for the sceptics who dismiss the growing body of evidence for ABSMs as fanciful. He points out that many sightings have been from reputable geographers, anthropologists, foresters and mountaineers (such as Sir Edmund Hillary). His extensive bibliography provides lots of leads for readers who want to explore further.

SUPERNATURAL CALIFORNIA

by Preston Dennett

Schiffer Publishing, Atglen, PA, USA, 2006
ISBN 0-7643-2401-2 (168pp tpb)
Availability: Schiffer Publishing Ltd,
<http://www.schifferbooks.com>

Following on from his 2005 *UFOs Over California* (see 13/02), Preston Dennett examines a broad range of paranormal sites around his home state of California. As well as leading the nation in UFO sightings, California lays claim to the most reported sightings of Bigfoot, sea serpents and lake monsters and has more than its share of mystics and psychics residing there.

Dennett's book is a guidebook with directions that the intrepid truth-seeker can have at hand while touring the state's unusual offerings. Divided into seven parts, *Supernatural California* first looks at "mystic places such as Sedona with its gravity hill anomaly, the Santa Monica Mountains with its alleged ruins of the ancient civilisation of Mu, Mount Shasta and its above-ground and subterranean mysteries, and Port Reyes with its standing stones. Next up is "cryptological creatures" including the Tessie of Lake Tahoe, Bigfoot (the author has at least heard

the creature) and the bizarre *chupacabras* or "goat sucker" that first appeared in Puerto Rico. Under the heading of "religious miracles" there are places where Virgin Mary apparitions and trees have been noted, and under "local legends" we hear about lost underground cities, buried treasure and unusual hums. This section also looks at forecasts and psychic visions about the possibility that an earthquake will one day cause California to break up into a series of islands. The fifth section focuses on "ghosts and hauntings" including of theatres, schools, parks, cemeteries and towns—and how to get to these places or even take part in "ghost tours". This is followed by the "psychic California" section that gives a run-down on psychics and seers available for consultation and advice on what to look out for when dealing with fortune tellers. Finally, Dennett describes five key "UFO hotspots", including the desert lands, canyons and the southern California coast.

With colour photos, illustrations and eyewitness accounts, Dennett's guidebook points the seeker in the right direction for exploring California's high strangeness.





REVIEWS

THE LANGUAGE OF CROP CIRCLES: The cosmic meaning of crop circles in Europe and North America

by Judith K. Moore and Johan Keijser

Johan Keijser Publishing, Drempt, The Netherlands, 2006

ISBN 90-810398-2-2 (273pp tpb)

Availability: <http://www.amazon.com>;

<http://www.booksurge.com/books>

The crop circle mystery endures despite efforts to pin it down, hoax it or explain it away. Many theories have been put forward but none has come out trumps. Nor does this latest offering, *The Language of Crop Circles*, provide the answers if you want rational solutions—but if you don't, then perhaps it delivers. To take in what it offers, you need to connect with the idea that the formations are part of a cosmic master plan; you have to link in esoterically with the language behind the crop circles.

American-born Judith Moore teams up with Dutch publisher Johan Keijser for this investigation of crop formations that energetically connect Britain across the world grid of ley lines with North America and Europe, particularly The Netherlands. Moore claims to have been initiated into a variety of North American tribes, including the Lakota, and to have participated in shamanic initiations in Mexico according to the Mayan tradition, but on her journeys to England has made special connections with Dutch "croppies" who in recent years have recorded many crop circles at home.

Moore has been involved with many healers and teachers, but her most recent journey involved channelling energies behind at least some of the pictograms—particularly those sourced from an Arcturian ultraterrestrial light being and her kin. Moore's take

on the mystery is that crop circles are emanations of light and sound frequencies and are gateways to other dimensions; indeed, she regards herself as part of the "Star Knowledge Family of Light". Moore maintains that the messages transmitted to her are accelerating the frequencies of the Earth and humanity, and that the crop circles are but a visual display of a cosmic language. She couples her channelled glyphs with crop circle patterns to highlight lessons for the growth of our consciousness.

However, when Moore declares that she's been the subject of human experimentation and mind control by the US Government, I have to take a step back and wonder what else is going on here behind the scenes.

WHO BUILT THE MOON?

by Christopher Knight and Alan Butler

Watkins Publishing, London, 2005

ISBN 1-84293-158-X (262pp tpb)

Availability: <http://www.watkinspublishing.com>

There are some stunning anomalies concerning our satellite, the Moon, not least of which is that it is exactly 400 times smaller than the Sun and one-400th of the distance between the Earth and the Sun. While being amazed that the disc of the Moon, from our Earth perspective, appears to be exactly the same size as the Sun—as can be observed during a total solar eclipse—the authors go further by suggesting that the Moon is where it is for a reason. And not only that, it is artificial!

Collaborating on *Who Built the Moon?* after their 2004 bestseller *Civilization One* (see 11/06)), authors Christopher Knight and Alan Butler analysed the science, the ancient evidence, the astronauts' reports, the Moon

rocks and the efforts of the SETI program in coming to their conclusion. And this is that an Unknown Creative Agency (UCA) plonked an artificial satellite in captured orbit around the Earth 4.6 billion years ago to increase the prospects of our blue planet becoming a crucible for life.

Knight and Butler dismiss the suggestion that the Moon was created when an object crashed into a still forming Earth; if that were the case, the Moon would have more metallic iron. However, they do posit that some of the Earth's crust was once removed to the satellite because the Moon's oxygen isotopic ratios are identical to the Earth's.

The Moon is believed to have no core, but it has been heard to ring when struck by visiting NASA astronauts, so the authors follow the trail of evidence suggesting that the Moon may indeed be hollow!

There are some astonishing concepts in this book, and the authors ask us to put aside our natural incredulity, read it with an open mind and study the research leads provided before forming an opinion.



REVIEWS



GOOD HEALTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY: A family doctor's unconventional guide

by **Dr Carole Hungerford**

Scribe Publications, Melbourne, 2006

ISBN 1-920769-81-1 (516pp tpb)

Availability: www.scribepub.com.au

Recently I heard an ABC Radio interview with Australian general practitioner Dr Carole Hungerford and was impressed by the quality of her research and the fact that she wasn't spouting the usual propaganda about health and illness. So I tracked down her book *Good Health in the 21st Century*.

It's a compendium of health-related information that draws on her experience since she began practising as a GP in 1975 and working in London, Sydney and regional Bathurst. Her country practice no doubt gave her a good grounding in basics such as the importance of maintaining the web of life and protecting soil health, learning from animals (and veterinarians) and eating healthful foods, which she expands on in her book. Dr Hungerford regards agriculture as an unfinished experiment: not only are the agribusinesses denaturing the food supply but the take-up of GE technology could result in an agricultural disaster.

Fortunately, as we read, Dr Hungerford is so well informed that she can see through the political agendas impacting on such areas as cancer treatment, hormone replacement therapy and vaccination. For instance, she's aware of problems with mammography and wouldn't recommend that a patient have a mammogram without being properly informed of the pros and cons.

Supplying readers with a basic knowledge of biochemistry, Dr Hungerford explains the importance of a healthy immune system and

offers sound advice on balanced supplementation with macronutrients, minerals, vitamins and essential fatty acids. She recommends a systematic approach to disease, whether it be a disorder of deficiency, genetics, toxicity or immunity. She pays special attention to obesity and cardiovascular disease, and promotes an enlightened response to mental illness. In her summing up, she reflects on communal health problems, weird diets, mass food production and modern lifestyles in what is an extremely user-friendly and empowering guidebook.

WHEN THE IMPOSSIBLE HAPPENS: Adventures in Non-ordinary Realities

by **Stanislav Grof, MD, PhD**

Sounds True, Boulder, CO, USA, 2006

ISBN 0-59179-420-X (377pp tpb)

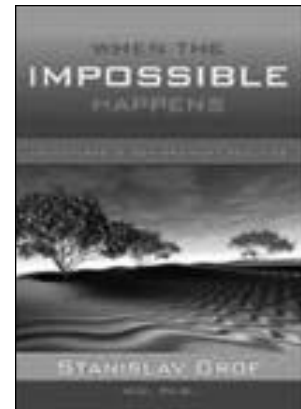
Availability: <http://www.soundstrue.com>

It's been 50 years since Dr Stanislav Grof had the "single most important and influential experience" of his entire life. It came as a result of his taking LSD as a psychiatric resident in Prague within a controlled study inspired by the formative work of Dr Albert Hofmann. What happened was that Grof's consciousness expanded into cosmic dimensions. This psychic rebirth sent him on a completely different trajectory both personally and professionally—a path that led him away from the materialistic Western scientific paradigm towards a new scientific understanding incorporating non-ordinary states of consciousness. It was a path that took him to the USA to continue his work with LSD, until such research was discontinued. It led him, with his wife Christina, to develop a new whole-body therapeutic system called Holotropic Breathwork, which they began working on at the Esalen

Institute in 1975 while in residence. His research and teaching helped the blossoming of a new human potential movement.

Dr Grof's *When The Impossible Happens* is a memoir of a life devoted to investigating the therapeutic, transformative and evolutionary potential of non-ordinary states. He tells of encounters with shamans, spiritual teachers and psychics and his work with like-minded therapists in transpersonal psychology (a branch which he co-founded). The often astonishing stories cover synchronicities, memories of birth, prenatal life and past lives, the akashic record, ESP and other paranormal phenomena, alternatives to traditional psychiatric treatment, and the interplay between transpersonal psychology and mainstream science.

This new-paradigm "oneness" perspective has benefits for humanity and the future of life on our planet. Grof believes that if a sufficient number of people undergo deep inner transformation, our chances of using our vast creative potential and meeting the challenges ahead will be enhanced.





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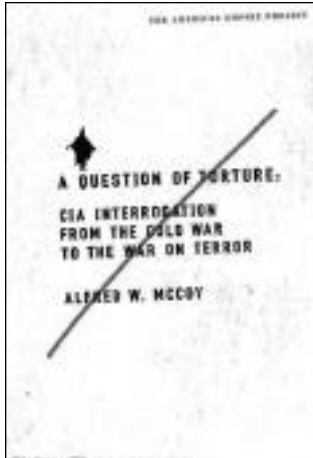
A QUESTION OF TORTURE: CIA Interrogation, from the Cold War to the War on Terror

by Alfred W. McCoy

Metropolitan Books/Henry Holt & Co.,
New York, USA, 2006

ISBN 0-525-94968-2 (360pp hc)

Availability: <http://www.henryholt.com>



Thank heavens again for Australia's ABC Radio. Tuning in recently, I was engrossed by an interview (a monologue, actually) with veteran commentator Alfred McCoy, author of the seminal book *The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia*. The subject was the plight of Australian and "almost" British citizen David Hicks, who's been locked up in Guantánamo (Gitmo) Bay for four years for the alleged crime of fighting with the Taliban in Afghanistan in a war which had not yet been declared by the US. This is a man whom the Australian, British and American governments seem intent on dehumanising and leaving to languish in his island prison; he's their chief scapegoat.

In an essay for Australia's *The Monthly Magazine*, McCoy took up Hicks's case and considered its implications in terms of an impending Supreme Court ruling—which in the meantime has declared President George Bush's military commissions illegal. He maintains that Hicks has been subjected to more days in solitary confinement at the hands of the CIA and US military than any other prisoner in US history. Psyops torture techniques including isolation and sensory deprivation are now stock in trade, as Hicks would attest, but they have a long history.

In his new book, *A Question of Torture*, McCoy analyses the development and spread of interrogation/psychological torture techniques by the CIA from the Cold War and Vietnam eras to recent times. In the last few years, the agency's handiwork has been seen at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq,

at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and at a number of staging locations in between.

McCoy strikes it home by divulging how torture has become a "weapon of choice" since 9/11, and yet he argues that information obtained by coercion is of little value for intelligence purposes. He makes a rational case for adhering to a proper legal approach in this so-called war on terror. It looks like the US Supreme Court agrees.

REMOTE CONTROL: The Battle For Your Mind

by Steve Lynch

Vortex Publications, Lyons, IL, USA, 2006

ISBN 0-9772175-1-5 (305pp tpb)

(US\$39.95 + \$4 p&h; add 7.75% in IL)

Availability: Vortex Publications, PO Box 99, Lyons, IL 60534, USA

In this disturbing book, the reality of US mind control technology deployment is confirmed yet again by a victim, the author. Kudos is provided in the foreword by Cheryl Welsh, director of the Mind Justice group that provides support for victims of covert mind control programs and lobbies on the world stage for disarmament of these dangerous, supposedly non-lethal weapons.

Steve Lynch gives a potted history of mind control and behaviour modification programs conducted by the CIA and other agencies since the 1940s and refers to patents on such technologies that are in the public domain, while chiding that the great bulk of these remains classified. This strategy of classification by the military/intelligence agencies ensures that the public is not only none the wiser about these advanced technologies but cannot countenance that it's possible to manipulate minds in such a way. "Manchurian candidates" are in the realm of fiction in their world. But not so.

Remote Control tells the story of a man imprisoned for nigh on 20 years for being anti-Zionist and whose human rights, particularly from the early 1990s, were constantly violated. The prisoner made affidavits to the fact that he was the victim of what he calls a "Brainscan" operation that had him subjected to nightmarish audio torture, attempted frame-ups by colluding "prisoners" and experimental drugs. At times he found his mind was being drained of the names of people he knew—people who were subsequently rounded up.

Mind control is a fact of life under the US military-industrial-intelligence complex (and that's not even taking into account the media). Since 1996, the Mind Justice group has been contacted by over 2,000 alleged victims from around the world. Let's be thankful that courageous individuals and groups are taking this threat seriously.

REVIEWS



THE LIGHT OF CIVILIZATION

by **Nicholas Hagger**

O-Books/John Hunt Publishing Ltd,
Hampshire, UK, 2006

ISBN 0-9750769-5-7 (655pp tpb)

Availability: **Australia**—Brumby Books, tel
(03) 9761 5535; **UK/Europe**—Orca Books
Services, tel 01202 665432;

USA/Canada—NBN, tel 1800 462 6420

At the source of civilisations can be found religions, and at the core of all religions and historical traditions is the experience of the Light, although it is interpreted differently in different religions, says Nicholas Hagger. A former history professor who has spent many years living in Asia and the Middle East, Hagger has excelled in *The Light of Civilization* with a unique stance that gives mystics, prophets, saints and shamans more credit than kings and politicians for driving history. (We reviewed his



books *The Syndicate* and *The Secret History of the West* in NEXUS 13/03 and 13/02 respectively.)

This book is the culmination of Hagger's 45-year-long quest to understand the patterns underlying world events. His research stepped up a notch in 1971 when he realised that Christianity was missing its connection with the Light—and he saw that this link had to be restored if it was going to survive.

This book is meant to be read in conjunction with a forthcoming companion volume, *The Endless Rise and Fall of Civilizations*. Together, Hagger says, they offer a "Grand Unified Theory of Religion and World History", though the latter's focus is on how civilisations rise and fall depending on whether their connection with the Light has brightened or dimmed.

In this volume, Hagger discusses the origin of the Light and the meaning of its experience. He elaborates on the tradition of the Light from 25 sources including the Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Israelite, Celtic, Iranian, Andean, African and Chinese, explaining also how the experience of the

Light in these regions helped shape these cultures and civilisations.

He then analyses a variety of subsets where "heretical" Light traditions have influenced Western civilisation, e.g., the Essenes, the Templars, the Grail Knights, the Kabbalists, the Theosophists and the New Agers (whose origins and ascendancy he analyses). Finally, he discusses the philosophy of history and touches on the implications of this Light knowledge for the future of Western civilisation. Brilliant!

THE TORCH OF FREEDOM: Redefining Reality and Man's Position in the Universe

by **D. H. D'Arcy-Evans**

The Oracle Press, Australia, 2006

ISBN 1-876494-81-6 (381pp tpb)

Availability: Author's website <http://www.darcy-evanstorchoffreedom.com>

Australian author D. H. D'Arcy-Evans has dwelled on the meaning of life, the universe and everything more than most people have, and has developed a personally relevant understanding of the big picture and his mission within it. We learn in the introduction that the author's first memory was of an out-of-body experience which happened when he was still in the womb! And it was that memory that set D'Arcy-Evans on the path that led to his talking about these mysteries for years and finally writing *The Torch of Freedom*.

We're asked to question our reality constructs and view all facets of our modern living, with its science and technology, religions, laws and philosophies, as manufactured products. We're encouraged to do away with preconceptions and study the collected material with detachment.

D'Arcy-Evans provides an overview of the human condition and our relationship with existence in the context of the interface between science and religion. Indeed, he suggests that science in the future will take over some areas once monopolised by religious beliefs.

His discussion covers the content of the major religions and how they relate to our multidimensional nature. For example, we can learn much from the image of the Kabbalistic Tree of Life struck by a lightning flash, or the dynamic force of God and Creation (love), as it flows through the Tree, as D'Arcy-Evans illustrates with diagrams.

Next, he considers extended realities as diverse as ancient knowledge and ET links. Finally, in his coverage of "the politics of spirit", he advocates a mystic-based approach to help free us from materialistic mindsets, harmonise ourselves with nature and build true democracy in the body politic.



REVIEWS

FREEDOM NEXT TIME

by John Pilger

Bantam/Transworld Publishers/Random House, London, 2006

ISBN 0-9750769-5-7 (356pp tpb)

Availability: <http://www.booksatransworld.co.uk>

Investigative journalist John Pilger speaks out again for oppressed peoples in *Freedom Next Time*. In his introduction he argues that imperialism is still alive and well, though the emperor is dressed up in a new brand of ideology and is out to save the Third World from itself. He warns that the Bush government is now an imperial dictatorship operating behind a democratic façade. And the British government is not much better, now that domestic criticism of its imperialist actions is punishable under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act that was enacted on 1 January 2006. The



decisions of these and other so-called democratic governments have a distinctly fascist tinge about them, Pilger declares, quoting other thinkers who argue in a similar vein. The new style of imperialism can cause dissenters at home to be rounded up just as easily as it can justify innocent people in foreign lands to be rounded up.

To illustrate his point, Pilger turns to the experiences of several suppressed peoples. First up is the outrageous case of the Chagos islanders, who were forced from their "uninhabited" Indian Ocean paradise in the mid-1960s to mid-1970s to make way for a strategic US military base on Diego Garcia—a base from which air strikes have been launched on Afghanistan and Iraq in recent years. Pilger recounts the sad stories of some surviving islanders who were despatched by the British government to the Seychelles and to Mauritius. He exposes the conspiracy between the British and US governments and the secret agreement they signed in 1965, which created a new British colony (in return for independence in Mauritius) which was then leased to the

Americans for 50 years. The remaining Chagossians are fighting to return to their homeland and are awaiting the results of the British High Court's judicial review of the government's use of the royal prerogative that has so far prevented their return.

Pilger also sets his sights on the plight of the Palestinians, revealing new findings that their expulsion from their land and homes was planned and executed in the months and weeks before Israel's establishment in May 1948. He documents the conditions following "liberation" in post-British India, in post-apartheid South Africa and in Afghanistan that allow imperialism in a different guise to flourish and ensure that freedom remains an elusive dream for most of the population. Another powerful exposé.

ARMED MADHOUSE

by Greg Palast

Dutton/Penguin, USA, 2006

ISBN 0-525-94968-2 (360pp hc)

Availability: <http://www.penguin.com>

Former corporate fraud investigator turned journalist Greg Palast has put out his first book since his 2003 *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy* (see 9/06), which spilled the beans on vote theft in the 2000 US presidential election. In chapter 4 (The Con) of *Armed Madhouse*, he exposes the 2004 election theft from Kerry and predicts the 2008 election will be a worse travesty, with four million ballots going missing, and he describes how it will be done.

The key theme in this book is class warfare, and Palast is determined to break the media's embargo on discussion of this touchy subject. While he is entertaining, he's also deadly serious about revealing how the movers and shakers have created "the moved and shaken" through a "billion-dollar fear industry". His Fear chapter reveals more of the neo-cons' cons before and after 9/11 in the war-on-terror industry. His Flow chapter discusses the Iraq war as a means of going after oil in order to lift up OPEC.

In *The Network*, Palast describes the world as a company town with its tidal flow of petro-dollars and electro-dollars and explains why the Venezuelan president and "class warrior" Hugo Chávez is such a threat to the Saudi-Houston cartel. In *The Class War*, Palast shows up more bad-case scenarios of out-of-control government and "corporatopia", such as poor kids sorted out by performance testing in the classroom, employees done over by Enron's pension plan and New Orleans citizens abandoned.

Palast, armed with classified government documents and "liberated" secret corporate plans, succeeds in sounding the alarm.

REVIEWS



DVDs

Compiled by Duncan Roads

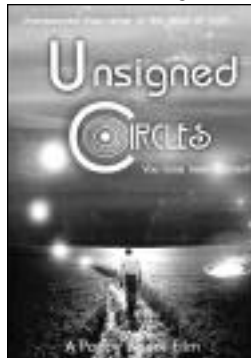
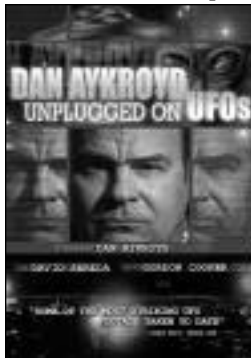
DAN AYKROYD, UNPLUGGED ON UFOs

© 2005 Graviton Productions (81mins)
Availability: Anchor Bay Entertainment Inc., 1699 Stutz Drive, Troy, MI, 48084 USA, www.anchorbayentertainment.com

Presented by author/UFOlogist David Sereda, this documentary has lots of great historical film footage plus some great interviews. I was particularly pleased to see John Hutchinson from Canada, along with video footage of his successful antigravity experiments, included in the section dealing with advanced technology. There is intriguing UFO footage along with rare testimonies from astronaut Gordon Cooper, NASA engineer John F. Schuessler and former Canadian defence minister Paul Hellyer, giving further credence to one of the greatest mysteries of our time.

Aykroyd and Sereda discuss recent findings, international UFO technology, government cover-ups and potential military intervention in a possible attack. According to the promo, the film includes never-before-seen footage of UFOs in classified military and NASA space shuttle videotapes.

I was surprised to learn of Aykroyd's own "Men in Black" encounter which happened, suspiciously, just before his planned TV special on UFOs was cancelled!



UNSIGNED CIRCLES Hosted by John Rixey Moore

© 2005 Poppy Paulos
Availability: Poppy Paulos, 9854 National Blvd #113, Los Angeles, CA 90034, USA, website <http://www.unsignedcircles.com>

This is a remarkable documentary—remarkable because it was made by a total amateur, purely because of her interest in the subject. Even more remarkable is that it was screened on Australia's government-funded national TV network, the ABC. I remember working late one night (22 September 2004) and seeing this amazing

film on television. I couldn't believe such an open-minded film was screened on mainstream TV, without one rebuttal by sceptics!

Lots of in-depth conversation with Linda Moulton Howe, Freddy Silva, Paul Vigay, Michael Glickman and Lucy Pringle guarantee that you will learn something new on the subject. Freddy's research into geometry and sound comes across really well. And yes, there are lots of great aerial shots of those amazing 2004 crop formations.

This is among the *best* documentaries that I've seen on the subject of crop circles.

HAARP – THE UPDATE: Angels Still Don't Play This HAARP

Narrated by Dr Nick Begich

© 2006 Dr Nick Begich
Availability: Earthpulse Press Inc., PO Box 201393, Anchorage, Alaska 99520, USA tel +1 (907) 249 9111, fax +1 (907) 696 1277, website <http://www.earthpulse.com>

This DVD is the third volume of the Earth Rising Series and is based on the best-selling book *Angels Don't Play This HAARP*. Dr Nick Begich presents a compelling discussion on one of the important military advances of the United States Government. This technology is designed to manipulate the environment in a number of ways; it can jam global communications, disrupt weather systems, interfere with migration patterns, disturb human mental and physical processes, and play havoc with the upper atmosphere. The US military calls this zapper the High-frequency Active

Auroral Research Program (HAARP). The rest of the story is revealed in the patents, technical papers and other documents that continue to emerge regarding this project.

Begich has appeared as an expert witness on this subject for the European Parliament, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Security and Defense Policy Subcommittee on Security and Disarmament, GLOBE and others. Readers may be tickled to learn that it was a news item in NEXUS magazine that first alerted Nick to the existence of HAARP in his "backyard" in the first place!



REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

UNDER THE BODHI TREE

by Jonathan Still

New World Music, UK, 2006 (52mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—New World Music, tel (02) 9565 4522, **UK**—New World Music, tel (0)1986 891600, <http://www.newworldmusic.com>; **USA**—New World Music, tel 800 771 0987

Graceful, ambient sounds fill the air under the Bodhi tree in India as Jonathan Still takes a trip through the days and nights of the Buddha's meditation on the eternal truths. Some uplifting keyboards and an engaging musical arrangement from Still makes for a relaxing album which allows you to rid yourself of some of the stresses of the workaday world.

ELIXIR

by Kaya Project

One World Music, Aust, 2006 (72mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—One World Music, tel (02) 9565 4522, website <http://www.oneworldmusic.com.au>; **UK**—New World Music, tel (0)1986 891600; **USA**—NWM, tel 800 771 0987

Kaya Project is a venture of Seb Taylor, who is based in the UK, and vocalist and keyboardist Natasha Chamberlain. Seb has been involved with several groups including Digitalis and Shakta. *Elixir* is a blending of musical samples they've obtained on their travels, and includes musicians such as Omar Faruk Tekbilek and Irina Mikhailova. It's a beautiful album that's been skilfully arranged with Eastern traditions in mind. This warm, captivating collaboration effortlessly blends into your moods. Nothing too heavy or overly light, but some intricate and cutting-edge music with a strong global fusion feel.

METAMORPHOSIS

by Sangeet, Tarshito & Jimmy

Kittani Music, Australia, 2005 (60mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—Kittani Music, tel (02) 6684 2350, website <http://www.homepages.better.net.au/tarshito>

Tarshito, based in northern NSW, Australia, has produced a host of musical compositions including 14 award-winning or nominated albums over the last 15 years (see NEXUS 7/04 review). He is one of Australia's unique and refreshing ambient and fusion musicians with a track record of producing hot didge and innovative trance dance music. His range covers from classical Indian to world tribal and relaxation styles. On *Metamorphosis* he's joined by

Sangeet on sitar and Jimmy on didge. This is sweet music with a touch of spice from three musicians with diverse backgrounds.

STREAM FLOWING:

TRADITIONAL MUSIC FROM CHINA

by Weng Zhenfa and Fu Renchang

Celestial Harmonies, 2006 (60mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—Planet Distribution, tel (02) 9356 4866; **USA**—Celestial Harmonies, tel (818) 763 1397, website <http://www.harmonies.com>

An album of traditional Chinese music featuring the *sheng* (Chinese mouth-organ) and the *yangqin* (hammered dulcimer). The *sheng* goes back over 3,000 years in Chinese history, whereas the *yangqin* appeared as an introduced instrument 400 years ago, based on the Persian *santur* (dulcimer). The *sheng* looks like the wings of a bird (the legendary phoenix, according to tradition). The players, Weng Zhenfa and Fu Renchang, are classically trained musicians and educators with distinguished careers in China and Europe. This is a special album for collectors.

¡BAILA! A LATIN DANCE PARTY

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2006 (45mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Putumayo, tel 07759 600495; **USA**—Putumayo World Music, tel 800 955 9588, website <http://www.putumayo.com>

This new Putumayo collection features tracks of Latin salsa, merengue, cumbia and much more dance party music. Some of Putumayo's favourite artists are represented here. There are pieces from Ricardo Lemvo, Yerbabuena, the Africando All-Stars, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra and Los Pingüos, among others from across Europe, West Africa, Cuba and the USA. *¡Baila!* is a funky celebration of Latin music in all its styles. It's party time!



The Port Arthur Massacre: Was Martin Bryant Framed?

Continued from page 18

Endnotes

1. The transcript can be read online at <http://home.overflow.net.au/~nedwood/transcript.html> or http://members.fortunecity.com/able_j/transcript.html.

Note that the extracts used in this article have been slightly modified in the interests of readability.

2. Noel McDonald, *A Presentation of the Port Arthur Incident*, 2001, p. 173.

Admittedly, "an edited version of this interview"—two hours long—was played in court on 19 November 1996.

However, this was in the context of a sentencing hearing, not a trial (McDonald, pp. 174, 176).

That day, Bryant's second lawyer, John Avery, told the judge that he was "not troubled" by the decision to play the tape—a statement which raises questions about Avery's view of his obligations to his client.

3. McDonald, pp. 175–76.

4. Since Bryant's intention after he left Nubeena was to visit the Martins at Seascapes, there was no reason for him to

go past Seascapes as far as the Fortescue Bay turnoff. This means that Bryant must have driven from Nubeena to the Fortescue Bay turnoff via Taranna. But this contradicts Bryant's recollections elsewhere in the same interview of having driven past Port Arthur without stopping. This contradiction is the first clue to the fact that the whole story is imaginary.

5. John Frow, "Recovering Memory", *Australian Humanities Review*, December 1996; article available online at <http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/AHR/archive/Issue-Dec-1996/frow.html>.

6. See http://www.religioustolerance.org/false_co.htm.

7. The idea that videotapes were used to persuade Bryant to accept responsibility for the Port Arthur massacre and the murders at Seascapes is not a far-fetched one. Later in this series, I examine a videotape which seems to have been fabricated months after the massacre for the purpose of convincing Bryant that he had been present at Port Arthur that day.

8. McDonald (pp. 119–27) discusses several other problems with Bryant's account.

About the Author:

Carl Wernerhoff is the pseudonym for a Sydney-based conspiracy researcher with a particular interest in the history of political assassinations and orchestrated tragedies such as the Port Arthur and Columbine massacres. He has a PhD in History and currently works as a teacher.

He recently released an e-book, *What's Going On? A Critical Study of the Port Arthur Massacre*. It can be downloaded (free of charge) from <http://www.ourmedia.org/user/95839>.

Carl Wernerhoff can be contacted by writing to him care of NEXUS, or by email at cwernerhoff@yahoo.com.

Correction:

In the previous article in this series (NEXUS vol. 13, no. 4), I stated that Martin Bryant is left-handed. I have since been informed that in fact he is right-handed, and that confusion has arisen over this issue because of a statement he made to police in which he said that he had taught himself to shoot left-handed.

Continued from page 25

In so far as this expansion into Central Asia was a matter of geostrategic policy, it was a policy primarily directed by private oil companies and PMCs, not the state. The sense of powerlessness that pervades American civil society, and even Congress, derives from this awareness that the state only mediates in foreign imperial expansion today after crucial decisions have already been made by institutions over which the state has no control.

Since the year 2000, the American state has in effect been captured by these meta-groups. Not the American people but the Supreme Court (acting without precedent and, many lawyers claim, without constitutional authority) determined who would be the next president of the United States.

Behind the nominal authority of George W. Bush, representatives of the multinational oil and pharmaceutical industries—Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld—moved in to consolidate the superprofits of these industries with a war tailored to meet their needs.

They did so by implementing policies

that had been predetermined—in non-accountable arenas like PNAC (Project for the New American Century) and the AEI—before their dubious assumption of power. And the key to the implementation of these policies was an event still mysterious and barely understood: the homicidal attack on the United States citizenship that we call 9/11.

In studying 9/11, I have come to articulate further the distinction I have made previously between *parapolitics*, the covert actions and policies which can be traced back to secret state agency, and *deep politics*, the entire field of political practices and relationships, deliberate or not, which are usually repressed rather than acknowledged.

I now see a third level, still deeper and even less documented, which I can only think to describe provisionally with the abused term *transpolitics*: actions and policies which are deliberate, but which have been determined by overworld groups and agencies beyond the reach of the domestic state.

The "Pristina dash", if truly an action not initiated by the Kremlin, would constitute an example of transpolitics.

STOP PRESS

Shamil' Basaev (mentioned in part one of this series), the mastermind behind the horrors at Beslan (2004) and Moscow's Dubrovka Theatre (2002), was killed in a Russian special operation on the night of July 9–10, 2006, shortly after he had threatened to take action against the Group of Eight Summit on July 15. In his last year he had allegedly made up for a decline in foreign financing by reliance on bank robberies and drug-trafficking.

Editor's Note:

This article has been abridged for a 2006 colloquium presentation by Dr Scott at the University of Melbourne. A longer form of this essay, together with endnotes, can be found at <http://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/articles/global-drug.htm>.

About the Author:

Dr Peter Dale Scott, a former Canadian diplomat, has written extensively on US foreign policy and the international drug traffic. He has recently completed a book manuscript, *The Road to 9/11: Wealth, Empire, and the Future of America*. For additional background, see "A Ballad of Drugs and 9/11", *FlashPoint*, Spring 2006, at www.flashpointmag.com/scott2.htm. For more details about Dr Scott and his work, visit his website <http://www.peterdalescott.net>.

Continued from page 44

report them to be very different from all other experiences," he explains. "Technically, hallucinations are perceptions without corresponding sensory input, which means that hallucinations are all in one's head and have nothing to do with any reality that exists separate from us. Hallucinations generally have a very negative content, vary considerably in content from person to person, and are thought to be a symptom of a severe psychological disorder.

It is clear, however, that IADC content is uniformly positive, very consistent in content from person to person, and very healing psychologically."

In addition, having shared experiences—as Stromberg has had with her patient—works against the hallucination theory, Botkin adds.

He also mentions that scientifically controlled studies of IADC are underway at the University of North Texas, and he is optimistic that they will confirm the several thousand clinical observations made by himself and other IADC-trained therapists.

"I feel I have a moral duty to bring it to the world," Botkin says. "My primary job at this point is to get help to those people who need it, such as combat veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and survivors of disasters."

If the IADC is what most patients and therapists believe it to be, Botkin may very well have made the greatest discovery of the past century, perhaps the millennium.

About the Author:

A 1958 graduate of the San Jose State University School of Journalism (BA Public Relations), Mike Tymn has contributed more than 1,400 articles to some 35 newspapers, magazines, journals and books over the past 50 years. While most of his articles have dealt with subjects from the sports arena, Mike has done business, travel, metaphysical and human interest features. He won the 1999 Robert H. Ashby Memorial Award given by The Academy of Religion and Psychical Research for his essay on "Dying, Death, and After Death". Writing assignments have taken him to such diverse places as Bangkok, Panama, Glastonbury, Jerusalem, Hollywood, St Paul and

Tombstone.

Mike Tymn currently serves as vice-president of the Academy of Spirituality and Paranormal Studies, Inc., and is editor of the Academy's quarterly publication *The Searchlight*. He is also senior writer for *Running Times* magazine and contributing editor for *National Masters News*, a monthly publication for senior athletes. His book *The Articulate Dead: Bringing the Spirit World Alive* is being published by Galde Press (*FATE Magazine*) later this year or early next year.

A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Mike retired from his primary job as an insurance company claims manager in 2002. He is a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, and can be contacted at METGAT@aol.com.

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- For additional information on IADCs, visit Dr Allan Botkin's website <http://induced-adc.com>.
- For further information on IADCs as well as forum discussions, see Dr Craig Hogan's website <http://mindstudies.com>.
- For information on EMDR, see Dr Francine Shapiro's website <http://www.emdr.com>.

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